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Community Service Socialization of Credit Union Cooperative Sumber Sejahtera Ibu Pkk at Rt. 29 Kel. Syamsudin Noor Banjarbaru South Kalimantan

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Abstract

This community service activity aims to socialize the role and benefits of the Sumber Sejahtera Credit Union Cooperative to PKK members in RT. 29, Syamsudin Noor Village, Banjarbaru, South Kalimantan. This socialization aims to increase public understanding, especially housewives, about the concept of savings and loan cooperatives, the benefits of joining a Credit Union, and how to manage family finances more effectively. The method used in this activity is interactive material presentation, discussion, and question and answer sessions to ensure participants' understanding. It is hoped that through this activity, the community can better understand the importance of cooperatives as a mutual cooperation-based economic forum, so as to be able to improve the financial welfare of families and communities in a sustainable manner.

Keywords: Credit Union, koperasi, pengabdian masyarakat, literasi keuangan, pemberdayaan ekonomi.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Cooperatives are one of the important pillars in improving the economic welfare of the community. Credit Union (CU) is a form of savings and loan cooperative that is oriented towards the economic empowerment of its members through the principles of mutual cooperation and solidarity (de Paula et al., 2019; Favalli et al., 2020; Goddard et al., 2023; Gomez-Biscarri et al., 2021; Gómez-Biscarri et al., 2022). CU Sumber Sejahtera is present as a financial institution that aims to help the community in managing finances better, improving welfare, and building community-based economic independence.

On the other hand, the role of housewives in managing family finances is very important. With a good understanding of financial management, housewives can be wiser in managing expenses, saving, and planning a more stable future for their families (Bekaert & Hodrick, 2019; Brigham & Daves, 2019; Madura & Fox, 2023; Perera & Peiris, 2021; Ratnawati et al., 2023; Rianse et al., 2016). Therefore, this socialization activity was held to provide education about the benefits and how to join the Sumber Sejahtera Credit Union to the PKK Women's group in RT. 29, Syamsudin Noor Village, Banjarbaru, South Kalimantan.

Activity Objectives, this socialization activity has several main objectives, namely: Increase public understanding, especially housewives, about the basic concept of Credit Unions and their role in family economic empowerment. Encourage the active participation of PKK women in cooperative activities to build financial independence. Explain the benefits of being a member of the Sumber

Sejahtera Credit Union, including access to savings, loans, and other economic development programs. Provide insights on how to manage family finances more effectively and sustainably. Benefits of Activities, with this socialization, it is hoped that: The public, especially housewives, have a better knowledge of savings and loan cooperatives and their benefits. An increase in the number of CU Sumber Sejahtera members who can benefit from community-based financial services. The creation of a culture of saving and better financial management at the household level

Cooperatives, particularly Credit Unions (CUs), play a pivotal role in enhancing community economic welfare through principles of mutual cooperation and solidarity. CU Sumber Sejahtera exemplifies this by offering financial services aimed at improving members' economic independence. Previous research by Damanik (2019) highlights the transformative potential of cooperatives in community economic empowerment, yet it lacks specific insights into the challenges of financial literacy among rural housewives. Similarly, Hendar & Kusnadi (2020) emphasize family financial management strategies but do not address the integration of cooperative models like CUs as a tool for economic stability. This study bridges these gaps by examining the direct impact of CU socialization on financial literacy and participation among PKK women in Banjarbaru, South Kalimantan—a demographic often overlooked in prior studies.

The objectives of this activity are twofold: (1) to enhance participants' understanding of CUs and their benefits, and (2) to foster active participation in cooperative initiatives for sustainable financial empowerment. The anticipated benefits include improved financial literacy, increased CU membership, and the cultivation of a savings culture, ultimately contributing to household and community economic resilience.

RESEARCH METHODS

This socialization activity is carried out with an educational and participatory approach so that participants can understand the material well and be active in discussions. The methods used in this activity include:

Lecture and Presentation Method

The presentation of the material was carried out by a resource person from the Sumber Sejahtera Credit Union Cooperative. The materials presented include:

- 1. Definition and basic principles of Credit Union.
- 2. Benefits of being a member of CU Sumber Sejahtera.
- 3. How to join and the deposit-loan mechanism.
- 4. Effective family financial management strategies.

 Presentations are supported by visual media such as Power Point slides and short videos to clarify the information being conveyed.

Interactive Discussions and Q&A

In order for participants to better understand the material, an interactive discussion session was held by giving participants the opportunity to ask questions directly to the speakers. Through this session, participants can convey their experiences and obstacles they face related to financial management, so that the speakers can provide the right solutions.

Simulations and Case Studies

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To provide a deeper understanding, participants were given examples of case studies related to financial management in the family. Simple simulations are also carried out, for example in making healthy household budget planning and calculating potential savings through Credit Unions.

Distribution of Socialization Materials

At the end of the activity, participants were given material in the form of booklets or leaflets containing a summary of information about Credit Union Sumber Sejahtera. This material is expected to be a guide for participants in understanding more about the benefits and how to join CU.

Evaluation of Activities

To measure the effectiveness of socialization, an evaluation was carried out through feedback sessions from participants. The evaluation was carried out by providing questions related to participants' understanding before and after the activity. Input from participants was also recorded as material for improvement for further socialization activities.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Activities

Socialization activities of the Sumber Sejahtera Credit Union Cooperative for PKK women in RT. 29, Syamsudin Noor Village, Banjarbaru, South Kalimantan, has been carried out well according to plan. This event was attended by 32 participants consisting of members of the PKK and the local community. The activity began with remarks from representatives of the CU Sumber Sejahtera Cooperative, followed by material presentation sessions, interactive discussions, and financial management simulations. This activity will be held on March 10, 2025.

Participant Response and Participation

The enthusiasm of the participants can be seen from the many questions asked during the discussion session. Some of the topics that most caught the attention of participants included:

- 1. How to join and requirements to become a CU member.
- 2. Savings and loan system in CU.
- 3. The long-term benefits of saving at a Credit Union compared to other financial institutions.
- 4. Strategies for managing family finances to be more stable and planned.

Most of the participants revealed that they did not understand the concept of Credit Union before, but after participating in socialization, they became more interested in joining.

Impact of Activities

Based on the results of the evaluation, this activity had a positive impact on the participants, including:

- 1. Increased understanding: Most participants experienced an increased understanding of the role and benefits of Credit Unions in daily life.
- 2. Interest in joining: Some participants expressed interest in becoming a member of CU Sumber Sejahtera after understanding the benefits.

Change in mindset about finances: Participants began to realize the importance of saving regularly and managing family finances better.

Obstacles and Challenges

Although this activity went smoothly, there were several obstacles faced, such as:

- 1. Time constraints: The time available is considered insufficient to discuss all the participants' questions in depth.
- 2. Lack of initial understanding of participants: Some participants still have a very minimal understanding of cooperatives, so a simpler approach is needed in explaining the concept of CU.

Recommendations for Further Activities

To increase the effectiveness of socialization in the future, some recommendations that can be implemented are:

- 1. Increase the duration of activities so that the question and answer session and discussion are more optimal.
- 2. Provide material in the form of short videos or infographics to make it easier for participants to understand.
- 3. Follow up with individual consultation sessions for participants who wish to join or need further assistance.

Documentation



Activity Materials

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Struktur Organisasi Manajemen













Attendance List





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CONCLUSION

Socialization activities of the Sumber Sejahtera Credit Union Cooperative for PKK women in RT. 29, Syamsudin Noor Village, Banjarbaru, South Kalimantan, has been running well and achieved the expected goals. Through material presentations, interactive discussions, and financial management simulations, participants gained a better understanding of the concept and benefits of Credit Unions in improving family economic welfare. The results of the evaluation showed that most participants experienced an increased understanding of the importance of saving and managing finances more wisely. In addition, interest in joining CU Sumber Sejahtera has also increased, showing the effectiveness of this activity in encouraging public awareness of the benefits of cooperatives. However, there are several challenges such as time constraints and lack of initial understanding of participants that can be improved in the next socialization activity. Therefore, it is recommended that there be a follow-up in the form of consultation sessions, the provision of materials in a form that is easier to understand, and a longer duration of activities so that the benefits of socialization can be maximized. Overall, this activity succeeded in providing insight and encouragement for the community to be more active in managing family finances through Credit Unions, so that they can improve welfare in a sustainable manner.

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