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Dried Leaves, Endless Possibilities: A Modern Craft Workshop at SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro

Heppi Purnawah[1], Suci Riya Safitri[2], Rully Paradise[3]
FitriSetya Ningsih[4], Djihad Mudjono[5]
[1,2]Universitas Muhammadiyah Kotabumi
[3,4,5]SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro
Email:heppi.2188203025@umko.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

The "Dry Leaves, Endless Possibilities" A Modern Craft workshop, program demonstrates how organic waste, such dry leaves, can be turned into artistic craft items with practical, aesthetic, and business potential. This program is intended to foster students' creativity, environmental consciousness, and entrepreneurial spirit through cooperation between Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro Middle School's fine arts teachers and teaching assistance students University Muhammadiyah Kotabumi. Students are guided through the phases of material collection, creative processes, and finishing using a qualitative descriptive method. Technical abilities like soaking, boiling, drying, and dying dried leaves were successfully improved by this program. Additionally, economically significant objects like wall hangings, tissue boxes, and flower vases were made by drilling students. The findings indicate a rise in pupils.

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ABSTRAK

Program lokakarya "Daun Kering, Kemungkinan Tak Terbatas: Lokarya Kerajinan Modern di SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro" menunjukkan bagaimana sampah organik, seperti daun kering, dapatdiubah menjadi barang kerajinan artistik yang memiliki potensi praktis, estetis, dan bisnis. Program ini dimaksudkan untuk menumbuhkan kreativitas siswa, kesadaran lingkungan, dan jiwa kewirausahaan melalui kerjasama antara guru senirupa SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro dan mahasiswa Asistensi Mengajar Universitas Muhammadiyah Kotabumi. Mahasiswa dibimbing melalui tahapan pengumpulan materi, proses kreatif hingga selesai, produk dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Kemampuan teknis seperti merendam, merebus, mengeringkan, dan mengeringkan daun kering berhasil ditingkatkan melalui program ini. Selain itu, benda-benda bernilai ekonomi seperti hiasan dinding, kotak tisu, dan vas bunga dibuat dengan cara mengebor siswa. Temuan tersebut menunjukkan adanya peningkatan pada siswa.

Corresponding Author:
Nama penulis: Heppi Purnawah
Universitas Muhammadiyah Kotabumi
Email: heppi.2188203025@umko.ac.id

Introduction

Indonesia has tremendous potential that hasn't been fully realized yet because of its riches of natural resources. Innovation and development are still ongoing, particularly among young artisans who are investigating the possibilities of using natural materials to create crafts. Laili et al. (2015) said. Among them are dry leaves, which are frequently seen as worthless waste. Traditionally used solely as medicine or animal feed, leaves are now utilized to make leaf crafts thanks to the inventiveness of craftspeople. Dry leaves can be turned into one-of-a-kind, extremely costly artworks with a little imagination and ingenuity. Indonesia, a tropical nation with a high level of biodiversity, contains a variety of useful leaf kinds. This is further reinforced by research conducted by Fahrurozi (2014), which found that Indonesia is extremely rich in a variety of plant species—roughly 30,000 of the world's 40,000 plant species. Seventy-four percent still grows wild in the forests, while about 26 percent has been cultivated. In addition to adding aesthetic value to crafts, using dried leaves helps save the environment by lowering organic waste. Dry leaves are therefore transformed from waste into a useful resource that can spur innovative economic development.

The "Dry Leaves, Myriad Possibilities" workshop is an intriguing creative endeavor that was created at SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro. through collaboration between teaching assistant students and fine arts teachers. In addition to teaching pupils about arts and crafts, this activity fosters critical values like creativity, environmental awareness, and an appreciation of the beauty of the natural world. Craft highlights the ingenuity of artisans in experimenting with concepts to be envisioned as artwork rather than being produced repeatedly in the same way (Laili et al., 2015).This program inspires students to think creatively and help save the environment by making use of dry leaves, which are frequently regarded as garbage. To read the systems, communication, and culture that exist in society and express them in Soetedja's visual language, this discipline emphasizes the development of perceptual and conceptual knowledge (Ramadhan, 2015, p. 2). Additionally, in keeping with global trends that emphasize sustainable and eco-friendly items, crafts made from dried leaves have encouraging commercial potential in both home and foreign markets.

The ability to create handicrafts out of dried leaves has significant commercial potential in addition to aesthetic value. Although they are frequently regarded as waste, dried leaves can be turned into valuable artisan items with a large market. Sari et al. (2021) assert that handicrafts made from natural materials, such dried leaves, might encourage the growth of the creative economy while lowering organic waste. Regretfully, not many people are aware of its potential, particularly students. Thus, the goal of this study is to investigate creative applications of dried leaves to create visually appealing and commercially

viable craft items. Developing a workshop program at SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro to teach craft skills based on natural materials is the primary goal of this project.

Using dried leaves as the primary element, this study covers a number of significant phases, from material collection to the creative process to product marketing. This method helps pupils develop an awareness of the environment and promotes the ideas of green education, which is quickly becoming a global trend. According to Wijayanti and Sari (2021), using organic waste as a foundational material for handicrafts can boost creativity while lowering environmental impact through efficient trash management. As an educational institution, Muhammadiyah, also Ahmad Dahlan Metro Middle School is crucial in giving pupils a place to express their creativity through workshops based on dry leaves. This action also backs up Nugroho's (2023) assertion that education centered on entrepreneurship can aid in the development of the next generation.

This research includes methods, preserving, coloring, drying and decorating to produce environmentally friendly products in order to promote community service programs which aim to improve students' ability to use dried leaves as craft materials. According to research, creativity is an individual's special capacity to produce new concepts or items through interaction with the environment and deep mental processes. This allows students to make handicrafts using organic materials that are aesthetic and useful (UNJ Journal, 2016).

In addition to imparting technical knowledge, this program raises awareness of the value of trash reduction and the innovative and practical uses of natural waste. According to Susilo et al. (2022), using organic waste to make handmade goods is a calculated move that promotes environmental preservation and lessens the harmful effects of improperly managed garbage. Furthermore, entrepreneurship-based education that incorporates creative processes can help students comprehend the role that arts and crafts can play in environmental sustainability, claims Nugroho (2023).

Student characteristics such as accountability and teamwork are also strengthened by this curriculum. Group-based exercises like these help students develop social skills, appreciate diversity, and learn how to collaborate with others—all important components of an efficient learning process, according to a study by UNJ (2016). As a result, the program fosters overall student growth by encouraging the development of technical skills and character.

Students will be intimately involved in this study from the point of material collection to the point of marketing the handmade goods. Students gain new abilities and a comprehensive understanding of the creative economic cycle in this way.

Direct experimentation, observation, and interviews are all part of the qualitative research methodology. This is to guarantee that the findings of the research are both applicable in the field and have academic validity. The information gathered will be examined to determine the best method for turning dried leaves into superior handcrafted goods.

The ultimate goal of this research is to provide training materials that other educational institutions can utilize. This session will step-by-step instructions for turning dried leaves into crafts. As a result, this research aids in the future development of practical skills-based education.

This study is also pertinent to worldwide efforts to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 12 on responsible production and consumptionLuthfiah

(2023). This study contributes significantly to both local potential development and environmental protection by teaching students innovative ways to repurpose organic waste.

Implementation Method

A qualitative descriptive method is used in this study. According to Ary et al. (2010), qualitative research works best with verbal data rather than numerical and statistical data. According to Sugiyono (2014), qualitative research is used to investigate the state of natural objects, with the researcher serving as the primary instrument. Triangulation (combination) is used in data collection techniques, inductive/qualitative data analysis is used in data analysis, and the findings of qualitative research highlight the significance of generalization. In this investigation, ninth-grade students from Al-Aziz SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro were asked to participate in the creative workshop "Dry Leaves, Endless Possibilities" to investigate the potential of dry leaves as raw materials for handicrafts. This activity aims to foster participants' creativity, increase participants' knowledge of environmental issues, and provide valuable experience in processing natural materials into works of art that are second to none and priceless. So that participants can maximize the economic potential of their work, this activity also seeks to foster an entrepreneurial spirit within them.

Students from Al-Aziz's class IX participated in this study, But not every female student is interested in learning how to use dried leaves. Before moving on to the implementation step, researchers requested the female students to inspect the site and create activity plans so they could comprehend the surrounding environment, find resources, and create suitable tactics. This is done to make sure that operations are efficient and aligned with the goals of the research.

This class is thoughtfully planned to walk participants through the process of turning dry leaves into contemporary crafts that are imaginative, distinctive, beautiful, and meaningful. Participants are introduced to the equipment and materials that will be utilized throughout the preparation phase of the workshop. The type, texture, and condition of the dried leaves are taken into consideration when choosing the main element. In order to keep the leaves strong and not brittle, participants are also taught methods that include soaking, boiling, and drying them. Other supplies supplied to aid in the craft-making process include fox glue, glue gun, double tip, paint, colored markers, chlorine, caustic soda, gas stove, cauldron, bucket, winnowing pan, varnish, scissors, cutter, canebo, pencil, ruler, brush, triplex, slipper foam, and hard paper.

The implementation phase, which is separated into theoretical and practice sessions, comes next. Participants in the theory session gained an awareness of fundamental methods, such as identifying the type of leaf, soaking, boiling, and drying it, as well as creating craft designs. Participants have the opportunity to put the skills they have learned into practice during the practical session. Participants began creating basic crafts including wall hangings, tissue boxes, picture frames, and flower vases under the facilitator's direction. Make use of processed dry leaves.

Figure 1: *Explanation of material to Teaching Asistence*

Finally, in order to evaluate the outcomes of the participants' labor, the evaluation stage was conducted. Each participant prints their work in front of the facilitator and other participants during this phase. The facilitator offers suggestions for improving the work's creativity and technique. In addition, talks were conducted to investigate fresh concepts and the possibility of advancing dry leaf crafts in a way that is more contemporary and profitable.

Figure 2*: Art Teachers, Teaching Asistance and Students SMP MUAD*

Results and Discussion

Students gained practical experience turning dried leaves into lovely and useful items during the crafts class. Students first taught how to choose, wash, and prepare dried leaves so they would be long-lasting and appropriate for crafts during the preparation stage of the process. To increase the leaves' strength and flexibility and prevent them from crumbling during the creative process, methods like soaking, boiling, and drying were taught. In order to enhance the leaves' visual attractiveness, students also investigated methods of dying them with synthetic or natural hues. With an emphasis on accuracy and inventiveness, these fundamental abilities enabled them to comprehend the complexities of working with organic materials.

Figure 3: *Art Galery SMP MUAD*

Figure 4: *Explain the material to students*

Students advanced to making useful objects like tissue boxes, flower vases, and wall hangings during the hands-on workshops. Every project pushed them to combine functional utility with creative design. Making a flower vase, for example, required not just creating the basic framework but also designing it to blend in with its surroundings by taking texture, color, and shape into account. In a similar vein, careful measuring and assembly were necessary to guarantee the usability of a tissue box. Students gained confidence in carrying out their ideas and a sharp eye for detail as a result of this procedure. A greater understanding of the worth of handcrafted goods and a sense of accomplishment were both greatly enhanced by this practical experience.

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Figure 5*: Leaf soaking process*

By demonstrating how organic waste, like dried leaves, may be turned into useful products, the crafting class greatly increased students' awareness of environmental sustainability. Prior to the workshop, dried leaves were frequently thought of as worthless trash, which added to the waste buildup in the school setting. The program successfully illustrated the useful advantages of reducing, reusing, and recycling organic resources by integrating students in every step of the process, from gathering discarded leaves to turning them into artistic creations. Students were able to observe firsthand how their actions directly affected waste reduction thanks to this practical approach, which reaffirmed the significance of sustainable behaviors.

Figure 6: *Boiling Process*

The session also highlighted the wider ramifications of environmental protection, which is in line with worldwide trends in green education. The circular economy, which reduces environmental impact by repurposing trash into resources, was presented to the students. They discovered that minor activities, like making crafts out of organic waste, can help achieve more significant objectives, including lowering landfill waste and preserving resources. They gained a greater respect for nature as a result of this experience, and it also inspired them to consider their part in advancing sustainability. The curriculum taught students the ideals of environmental stewardship and innovative problem-solving, preparing them to be future change agents in both their personal and professional lives.

Figure 7: *Tissue Boxes Process*

Along with learning technical skills, students also gain knowledge of the entire creative economy, from marketing to production. Students get an understanding of how to produce goods with market value through direct practice and group discussions. According to Nugroho (2023), the significance of including

entrepreneurial education is reflected in this action. This further demonstrates how education can equip the next generation to participate in an economy that is centered on creativity.

Figure 8: *Leaf Attachment*

Students learn how to share tasks, collaborate to solve problems, and communicate clearly through the group work process in this activity. In addition to enhancing social skills, this practice fortifies moral principles like accountability and tolerance. After attending this program, 85% of students reported feeling more comfortable working in groups, according to the findings of the qualitative analysis. This validates the UNJ Journal (2016) results that group-based learning enhances students' character development and social abilities.

This initiative serves as a template that other educational establishments might follow. In addition to offering children immediate advantages, this practice gives schools the chance to support sustainability-focused instruction. Through this craft making program utilizing dried leaves, the ideals of skills-based education and sustainability have been successfully taught, promoting 21st century educational goals that are relevant locally and worldwide.

Conclusion

The workshop program "Dry Leaves, Endless Possibilities" demonstrates how organic waste, like dried leaves, can be turned into creative items that are useful and aesthetically pleasing as well as potentially profitable. Numerous facets of education and the development of students' character have benefited greatly from this approach. Students acquire comprehensive technical skills in the skills section, including how to choose, prepare, and process dried leaves using a variety of methods, such as soaking, boiling, drying, and dying. Learning this technique gives students the confidence to create art with a high degree of accuracy and inventiveness while laying the groundwork for them to manufacture high-quality craft items like flower vases, tissue boxes, and wall hangings.

In addition, this curriculum has been successful in raising pupils' knowledge of environmental issues. Students have a better grasp of the significance of waste management, waste reduction, and the implementation of sustainability concepts in daily life by learning how organic waste may be converted into useful goods. Supporting the sustainable development goals—particularly SDG 12 on responsible production and consumption—is consistent with this. Students discover that even small steps, like repurposing dried leaf waste, can significantly contribute to a circular economy and lessen environmental harm.

Additionally, this program encourages students to have an entrepreneurial mindset. Along with learning how to create handcrafted goods, they are also given an introduction to the idea of the creative economy, covering everything from marketing to production. Students gain fresh perspective on how creative items can be turned into a source of revenue through the hands-on experience of selling their work. This equips pupils to compete in an economy that is becoming more and more reliant on creativity.

As far as character development goes, this program also significantly strengthens the virtues of accountability, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Students gain communication skills, respect for differences, and the ability to share duties in order to accomplish shared objectives through group activities. In addition to enhancing their social skills, this experience lays a crucial basis for group learning that is pertinent to the demands of the twenty-first century.

Additionally, this program affects the education community more broadly. This activity serves as a reproducible model that encourages other educational establishments to adopt sustainable and skills-basedlearning strategies. Given the program's success, there is a good chance that other schools may create models akin to this one, allowing more children to take advantage of practice-based learning.Additionally, this program affects the education community more broadly. This activity serves as a reproducible model that encourages other educational establishments to adopt sustainable and skills-based learning strategies. Given the program's success, there is a good chance that other schools may create models akin to this one, allowing more children to take advantage of practice-based learning.

All things considered, this program was successful in incorporating a variety of educational elements, from character development to technical skills, environmental awareness, and entrepreneurship. With an approach that is applicable both domestically and internationally, this program significantly advances practice-based education, which not only raises the caliber of individual students but also aids in future environmental preservation and the growth of the creative economy, particularly at SMP Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Metro.

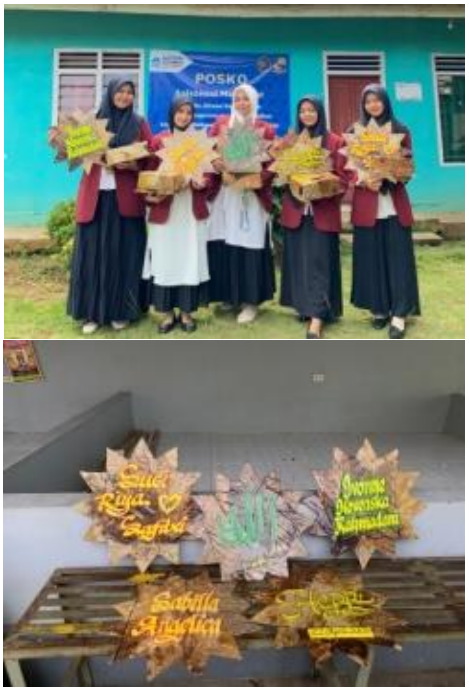

Figure 9: *Result*

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