

An Assistance to the Dokdak Village Karang Taruna Group in Managing the Karya Village Website

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Abstract

Managing the blacksmith's village website is an important aspect of developing the potential that exists in Dokdak Village which so far has not been conveyed to the wider community. The lack of knowledge of the community, especially the Youth Organization group, is one of the causes. Based on this, website management assistance activities were carried out for the Karang Taruna group. This mentoring activity used various lecture methods, demonstrations, and exercises, with steps to identify needs, develop training materials, train, create website management plans, direct mentoring, monitoring and evaluation, content development and promotion, technical maintenance, and continued empowerment. There were 7 participants in the mentoring activities. This mentoring activity was aimed at analyzing the role of the Dokdak Village youth group in managing the Dokdak Blacksmith Village website, thereby strengthening their involvement in managing and maintaining the Blacksmith Village website. The results of the mentoring activities showed that the Dokdak Village Karang Taruna group could be more active and have a better understanding of managing the Blacksmith Village website. They could collect, organize, and publish local information effectively. From this explanation, it could be concluded that the assistance of the Dokdak Village youth group in managing the website could be a reference for the local government and related parties to develop the potential that exists in their environment by continuing to encourage community involvement.

Keywords: *Dokdak Village, Karangtaruna; Karya Village Website; Mentoring*

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Article history

Received February 7, 2024
Revised February 15, 2024
Accepted February 21, 2024
Published Online February 22, 2024

Cite this article:

Suryana, A., & Pajriah, S. (2024). An Assistance to the Dokdak Village Karang Taruna Group in Managing the Karya Village Website. *International Journal of Community Service & Development*, 1(2), 57-61.

INTRODUCTION

The blacksmith village of Kampung Dokdak is a group of people in Baregbeg Village, Ciamis Regency with the majority of the people making their living as makers of agricultural tools and household equipment. Karya villages are identified as community units that can produce products or works that have economic value (Suryana et al., 2023a). To date, there are still twenty-six groups of blacksmith craftsmen remaining who are still maintaining their livelihoods. Based on data obtained in the field, it shows that this livelihood is economically capable of producing between IDR 70,000-240,000 per day. Apart from having economic value, the livelihood of the people of Dokdak Village also has a historical and cultural value which is very important to convey to the younger generation (Suryana et al., 2023b). The history of blacksmithing not only developed in Indonesia, but in several regions of the world the ability to smelt metal developed from 1400-1200 BC (Mackenzie, 2008). Another opinion stated that the ability to process metal began in the 6th millennium and progressed in 2000 BC (Wertime, 1964). Then, according to Sherby & Wadsworth (2001) the Iron Age was estimated to have started around 1000 BC. However, writers today believe that it is likely that the Iron Age began long before the Bronze Age. However, this still requires re-examination. It was stated Light (2007) that blacksmithing remained an omnipresent and essential trade in the West only so long as wrought iron was the basic ferrous commodity of Western society.

In its development, the Dokdak Village blacksmiths have been attempting to adapt to the times. Even though the process of making tools still uses traditional tools, efforts to introduce the potential that exists in this village continue to be carried out. One of them is by creating a special website with the name of the





blacksmith's village for the promotion and marketing of goods produced by the people of Dokdak Village. The purpose is to introduce local products in Dokdak Village so that they are known to the wider community.

A website or World Wide Web, is a service connected to the internet network, which generally consists of text formats, images, tables, graphs, quotes, videos, music, and other visual formats that are interesting to visitors to the website. The website functions as a media promotion, marketing, education, and communication (Surentu et al., 2020). Then, the use of websites can be used to support marketing strategies (Susanto et al., 2013). Strengthened by research results Al-Qeisi (2014) indicated that the technical, general content and appearance dimensions of a website are most important for users. The implication is that improvements to the appearance of a website should enhance the overall evaluation of the site, leading to greater usage intentions.

One of the community groups that has an important role in managing the blacksmith's village website is Karang Taruna. Karang Taruna is a youth organization formed by the community. It has great potential as an agent of social change and a driver of village development (Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2019). In managing the website, the role of youth organizations is important to ensure that the latest and relevant information reaches the public.

However, in reality, the Dokdak Village Youth Organization is experiencing various problems in managing and maintaining the Blacksmith Village website. These problems include a lack of technical knowledge regarding website management, a lack of access to adequate training and guidance, and limited human resources and funds for website maintenance. Based on these problems, assistance was provided to the Dokdak Village Youth Organization group so that a solution could be found for every existing problem. Apart from that, through mentoring activities, it is hoped that the Dokdak Village Youth Organization will be more independent in managing the Blacksmith Village website.

METHODS

The mentoring activities for the Dokdak Village Karang Taruna group use various lecture methods, demonstrations, and training/practice with the following steps. The first step of the mentoring activities is identifying the needs through surveys and interviews with the Dokdak Village youth group. The next step is developing the training materials, namely finding suitable material to be delivered to participants. The third step is training participants related to the website creation, starting from purchasing a domain and hosting from a hoster business, and the website creation process. The fourth step of mentoring activities is creating a website management plan, which helps *Karang Taruna* plan website management comprehensively and sustainably. The next step is directing assistance to the *Karang Taruna* group both in online and offline modes. The sixth step is monitoring and evaluating each stage of activities that have been carried out regarding the weaknesses and strengths of the existing ones, the seventh step is developing and promoting content to help *Karang Taruna* develop relevant and interesting content on the website to increase the number of visitors. The next step is maintaining technical support in website management starting from system updates or handling problems encountered. The last step of the mentoring activities is further empowerment, namely after the mentoring activities are completed, the service team continues to carry out continuous supervision of the youth in Dokdak Village so that existing programs continue to be implemented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Mentoring activities were carried out by using various lecture methods, demonstrations, and exercises. Assistance in managing the blacksmith's village website was carried out on September 7, 2023. The activity was carried out in the Baregbeg Village with a total of 7 participants, members of the youth organization.

The materials were presented by two invited expert speakers, namely related to the historical value of blacksmithing and the process of creating a website and managing it. The first speaker conveyed that



Dokdak Village, with the majority of blacksmith craftsmen had historical, cultural, and economic values that were very important to maintain. This was based on data in the field which showed that blacksmithing activities in this village had existed for tens or even hundreds of years ago. Apart from that, the blacksmith's livelihood was an economic activity that had been carried out since the time of the Galuh kingdom which was founded in Ciamis Regency. This statement could be acknowledged in the *Sanghyang Siksa Kandang Karesian* (SSKK) manuscript which was written in the 15th century (Suryana et al., 2022). In fact, in other writings, it is stated that the livelihood of a blacksmith outside the territory of Indonesia existed before AD. As stated by Riposan & Stan (2023) it is estimated that in the area that includes the territory of Romania, the processing of metals in their native state began about a millennium earlier than in the area that includes most of Europe. The new discoveries regarding the beginnings of iron metallurgy in Romania are an additional argument, besides the general historical considerations, in favor of the idea that the first iron age began in the Carpatho–Danube area before 1150 BC.

According to Zeilabi (2018) blacksmithing, as an instrumental skill since the dawn of humanity, supplied the necessary instruments in daily life as well as military and civil activities. Examining a wide range of historical, literary, and social sources, the present paper draws the scheme of blacksmithing in the structure and context of the traditional Muslim world. Furthermore ash-Shabuni (2011) stated that iron is a strength for humans in peace and war and also has benefits in buildings and villages. Even in the Al-Quran, Al-Hadid verse 25 is explained which means:

Indeed, We have sent Our messengers with clear proofs and We have sent down with them the Book and the scales (of justice) so that humans can carry out justice. And We created iron in which there is great strength and various benefits for humans (so that they use iron) and so that Allah knows who helps Him (religion) and His messengers even though Allah is not seen by Him. Indeed, Allah is All-Strong, All-Mighty (Q.S. Al-Hadid: 25).

Based on previous findings, it is proven that all the earth's iron was sent down from the sky factually, not figuratively. This confirms what is hinted at in the Koran in Surah al-Hadid above and the hadith of the Prophet, that without iron, the earth would not have a magnetic field that could hold gas and liquid objects with layers of gas and layers of water (An-Najjar, 2006). The livelihood activity of a blacksmith is closely related to the science of metallurgy or the science of smelting metals. According to Forrester (2013) metallurgical history began with the use of native metals, which are metals not attached to an ore. Such native metals are fairly rare so the widespread use of metals began when humans learned how to extract metals from their ores, a process known as smelting. Based on the explanation above, it shows that iron through the livelihood of blacksmith craftsmen has very important value, both from a general historical perspective and based on the opinion of the al-Qur'an.

The second speaker delivered a presentation related to the process of creating a website and managing it. As we know, a website is a promotional and marketing tool so that the goods or products produced can be recognized by the wider community. Website is a term for a group of web pages, which are generally part of a domain name or subdomain on the World Wide Web (www) on the Internet (Harminingtyas, 2014). The inventor of the website was Sir Timothy John 'Tim' Berners-lee, while the first network-connected website appeared in 1991 (Syaban et al., 2018).

Types of websites include:

1. Static website, namely a website that has fixed/unchanging display pages.
2. Dynamic website, namely a website whose structure is intended to be updated as often as possible, so that its appearance changes.
3. Interactive websites, namely websites that have a high level of popularity and are used for discussions, forums, blogs, buying and selling and so on (Riyanto & Kurniawati, 2018).

The elements of providing a website, namely:

- a. Domain, which is a unique address on the internet which is used to identify a website, such as <https://hpanel.hostinger.com/domain/desakaryapandaibesi.online/domain-overview/16CTMbTpN2Re18gPy>. Examples of domain names with international extensions are com, net, org, info, biz, name, ws. Meanwhile, the domain names of Indonesia are co.id for business

entities, .ac.id for educational institutions, .go.id for government institutions, .mil.id for Indonesian military institutions, and .or.id for all organizations.

- b. Web hosting, namely the space on the hard disk/place to store various data, files, images, videos, email data, statistics, databases and so on which will be displayed on the website.
- c. Website design is a very important factor, because it determines the quality and beauty of a website. Website design will determine the assessment of visitors. This web designer service generally requires the highest costs of all site development costs and it all depends on the quality of the designer. One of the website design programs is Macromedia Firework, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Dreamweaver, Microsoft Frontpage, and others.
- d. Website publication, namely introducing the site to the wider community (Maharani et al., 2021).

The benefits of a website are that it works in real-time, increases credibility, and saves promotional expenses. In carrying out the assistance activities for managing the Blacksmith's Village website, the domain and hosting were purchased from Niagahoster. During the mentoring activities for the Dokdak Village youth group, a website was successfully created with the link: <https://hpanel.hostinger.com/domain/desakaryapandaibesi.online/domain-overview/16CTMbTpN2Re18gPy> and can be seen in the image below:

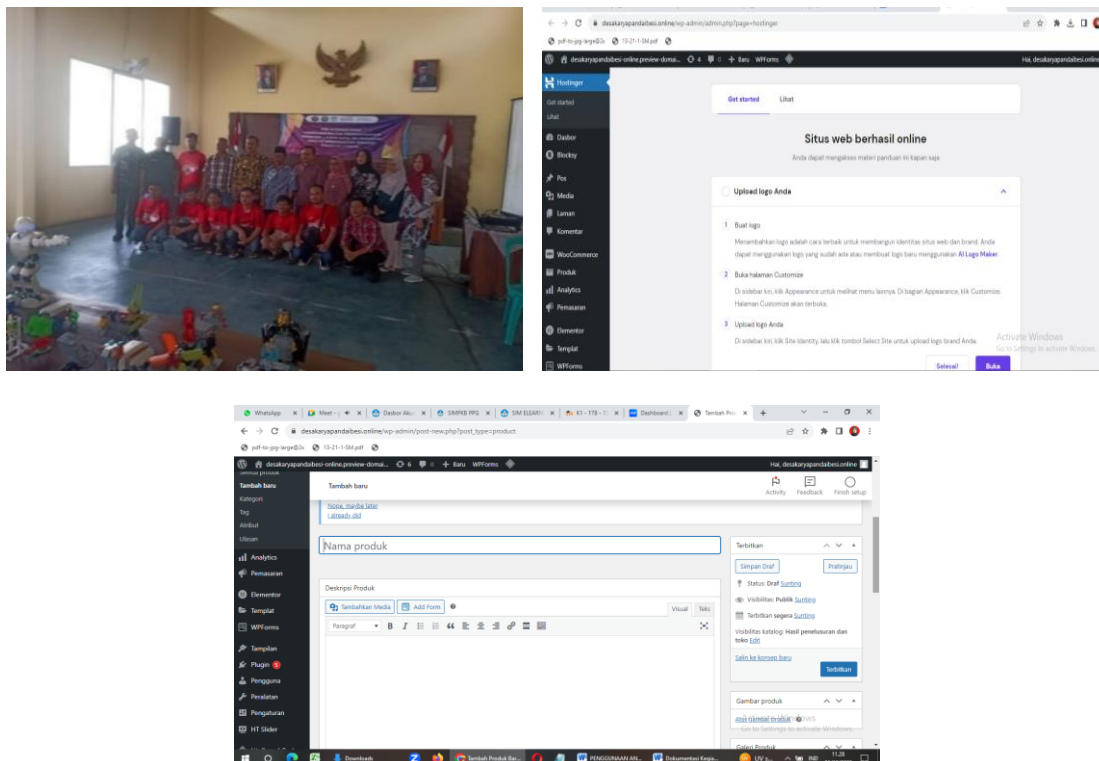


Figure 1. Display of the Karya Blacksmith Village Website

The results of the mentoring activities were the formation of a village website made by blacksmiths and an increase in the youth's understanding of website management. This was based on the results of a questionnaire distributed to service participants which showed the initial level of understanding of young people regarding website management, which is only around 20%, but after carrying out mentoring activities it has increased to 70%.



CONCLUSION

From this explanation, it is concluded that the assistance of the Dokdak Village youth group in managing the website could be a reference for the local government and related parties to develop the potential that existed in their environment by continuing to encourage community involvement.

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