



Financial Accounting Training and Assistance for Activity Management Units of the Community Empowerment Trust Fund

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ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

Editor;
Annisa Qurrota

Reviewers Article;
Diana Puspitasari
Ari Kristin

Article Revision;
1 May 2024

Article Accepted
1 June 2024

Author Correspondence;
Lilis Sulistyani

Keywords:
Financial Accounting,
Community
Empowerment, Training,
Micro-entrepreneurs,
Financial Reporting.

The purpose of this project is to give the members of the Community Empowerment Trust Fund Activity Management Unit (CETF-AM) in Kalijamber, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency, financial accounting training and assistance so they can produce correct reports. The participants are primarily involved in the production of wooden furniture, trading in groceries, and providing laundry services. The curriculum encompassed a series of presentations, discussions, and simulations. The intended audience comprises members of UPK-DAPM residing in Kalijamber, Kalijambe District, and Sragen Regency. The goal is to empower these micro-entrepreneurs to create financial reports, even if they are relatively uncomplicated. The activities began with an introduction to the financial accounting cycle, the creation of suitable forms and ledgers, instructions on recording transactions, and the preparation of financial statements based on the company's operations. Anticipated results encompass the proficiency of UPK - DAPM participants to document transactions utilizing appropriate forms, maintain a daily notebook, transfer summarized information to ledgers, and produce precise financial statements. Subsequent measures will entail providing ongoing guidance and assistance to ensure that participants are able to autonomously and efficiently handle their accounting operations.

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1. Introduction

A shift in Indonesia's attempts to reduce poverty, especially in rural regions, was signaled by the end of the National Program for Rural Community Empowerment (PRCE) (Rammohan & Tohari, 2023). PRCE, known for its participatory development strategy, sought to improve livelihoods, welfare, and community self-sufficiency (McDonald et al., 2019). The Community Empowerment Trust Fund (DAPM) was created as a financial safety net after PRCE was terminated, and its monies were managed by Activity Management Units (UPK). DAPM was established as a monetary remedy for rural areas, making use of revolving funds sourced from the former PNPM. Various sectors, such as wooden furniture making, supermarket commerce, and laundry services, saw difficulties amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with sales and profits declining. Considering DAPM's function as a system that provides financial support, its ongoing existence became essential for the sustainability of UPK.

In addition to changing the administrative structure, the switch from PRCE to DAPM presented UPKs with additional difficulties, especially in financial management. DAPM prioritized sustainable rural development after PNPM, whereas PNPM concentrated on community involvement and poverty alleviation. The importance of UPKs' capacity to adjust to these modifications is guaranteed by the effective use of DAPM funding to assist regional businesses. However, based on observations, it appears that UPK members, especially in Kalijamber

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Village, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency, could be more skilled in financial accounting, which makes it difficult for them to comply with administrative standards.

The potential and difficulties UPKs have when moving to DAPM are illuminated by theoretical frameworks related to financial management and community development (Cummings et al., 1974). Understanding the workings of rural empowerment efforts requires a grasp of concepts like sustainable livelihoods, financial literacy, and participatory development. (Akhter & Cheng, 2020). By including these theories in useful training and support initiatives, UPK members' ability to use DAPM monies efficiently can be improved.

The necessity of tackling the financial management difficulties faced by UPKs during the shift from PRCE to DAPM is of utmost importance for various reasons. Initially, the conclusion of PNPM required the creation of DAPM to guarantee ongoing assistance for rural communities, emphasizing the importance of sustaining progress in community empowerment initiatives. Nevertheless, this shift brought about administrative intricacies, namely in the realm of finance administration, necessitating prompt action. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened economic weaknesses in rural regions, affecting industries such as wooden furniture manufacturing and food commerce. The DAPM plays a crucial role as a lifeline for UPKs, providing necessary financial assistance to address the issues caused by the pandemic. Furthermore, the efficient administration of DAPM monies is essential for fair allocation and successful utilization in rural communities. The lack of sufficient financial management skills among UPK members poses a threat of improper allocation and weakens the achievement of DAPM's goals. Addressing these issues also contributes to the larger objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable rural development since sound financial management promotes resilience and economic empowerment. Ultimately, focused interventions are required to equip UPK members with the know-how and abilities needed to properly handle DAPM money and support the socio-economic development of rural areas.

The purpose of this project is to close the knowledge gap between theory and practice by offering UPK members in Kalijamber Village, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency, specialized financial accounting training and support. The social advantages encompass the empowerment of UPKs to effectively administer DAPM monies, therefore fostering sustainable rural development and the eradication of poverty. In addition, enhancing the financial management abilities of UPK members can promote economic resilience and responsibility, adding to the overall effectiveness of DAPM in Sragen Regency and comparable situations.

2. Critical Review

The essay provides a thorough examination of the difficulties encountered by UPK members and managers throughout the shift from PNPM to DAPM. It highlights explicitly their weak grasp of financial accounting fundamentals. The authors present a compelling case for the importance of offering training and assistance in financial accounting to improve the entrepreneurial abilities and company management strategies of UPK members in Kalijamber Village, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency. An area of excellence in the article is its precise expression of the problem definition and aims. The authors aptly recognize the deficiency in financial literacy among UPK members and suggest focused initiatives to rectify this deficiency. The essay emphasizes the importance of enhancing financial management techniques for the socio-economic progress of rural communities by placing the issue in the broader framework of rural development and poverty reduction. (Dziekański & Prus, 2020).

Furthermore, the suggested remedies are in line with the recognized difficulties. The execution of training and mentoring initiatives customized to the requirements of UPK members showcases a pragmatic strategy for enhancing their capabilities. (Oronje et al., 2022). The interventions aim to provide UPK members with the essential skills to efficiently and sustainably handle DAPM money by focusing on practical factors such as transaction documentation and financial reporting.

Although the essay successfully identifies the problem and suggests solutions, it needs more explanation of the methodology and evaluation framework. Including information about the structure and execution of the training and mentorship programs, as well as the standards used to evaluate their performance, would improve the thoroughness and practicality of the study. In addition, the inclusion of qualitative data or case studies to demonstrate the effects of the interventions on UPK members' financial management habits could enhance the study and offer significant insights for future research and policy formulation (Sinnewe & Nicholson, 2023). In summary, the study provides a substantial addition to the existing research on rural development and financial inclusion. It fills a crucial gap in the literature and suggests practical measures to improve the financial

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management skills of UPK members. By making improvements to the methodology and gathering more empirical information, this study can be a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars involved in community development and poverty reduction (Fan et al., 2023).

3. Method Innovation

The methodology used in this activity consists of a set of organized approaches designed to improve the financial management abilities of UPK members in Kalijamber Village, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency. The activity commences with the presentation of theoretical principles and practical procedures pertaining to accounting and the accounting cycle. UPK members are taught the basic principles of accounting, which include documenting transactions, journalizing, posting, and preparing financial statements. The material is specifically tailored to be easily understood and applicable to the participant's current level of comprehension, offering a thorough and all-encompassing examination of the accounting process.

After the theoretical session, participants participate in practical training by performing simulated accounting cycle exercises that are customized to the specific business activities carried out by UPK. By engaging in practical simulations, participants may effectively apply the acquired concepts to real-life situations. This enables them to develop a comprehensive understanding of accurately recording transactions, preparing journals, posting entries, and compiling financial statements.

Sessions of mentoring are held to walk participants through the accounting procedure process, reinforcing learning and addressing individual needs. Mentors offer individualized support, guaranteeing that participants comprehend and can proficiently apply accounting ideas within their specific circumstances. Participants partake in simulated activities, advancing from basic transaction recording to the creation of complete financial reports under the supervision of expert mentors.

During the activity, the PKM team and participants are invited to engage in collaborative conversations to tackle any issues or impediments that arise during the simulation exercises. Participants are provided with the chance to exchange their experiences, get clarification on ideas, and obtain help in overcoming challenges in executing the accounting cycle. The discussion sessions create a supportive learning atmosphere that encourages the interchange of knowledge and problem-solving. This helps participants to strengthen their comprehension and confidently apply accounting principles.

The methodological strategy used in this activity significantly improves UPK members' financial management abilities by combining classroom instruction, hands-on training, individualized mentorship, and group problem-solving (Bachiller & Badía, 2020). The activity seeks to empower UPK members by offering a well-organized learning experience that is customized to their individual requirements and business environments. The goal is to provide them with the required knowledge and skills to effectively manage DAPM money and make a positive impact on the long-term development of rural areas.

4. Result and Discusion

The community engagement activity aimed to enhance the financial management capabilities of UPK members in Kalijamber Village, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency. Through a series of structured interventions, including training sessions, simulations, evaluations, and discussions, the activity sought to empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage their businesses and contribute to the success of the DAPM program. This section presents the outcomes of the activity and discusses their implications for rural development and poverty alleviation efforts.

The initial phase of the activity involved assessing the accounting practices of UPK members and reviewing the financial statements produced by PKM participants. This step aimed to identify existing challenges and gaps in financial management and served as a baseline for subsequent interventions. Participants engaged in simulated exercises of the accounting cycle, followed by evaluations and discussions to review the outcomes. Through practical simulations, participants applied accounting principles to real-world scenarios, enhancing their understanding and proficiency in financial management.

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The activity was met with enthusiasm from UPK members, who actively participated in training sessions and simulations. Participants demonstrated eagerness to learn about financial accounting principles and their practical applications in business management. This high level of engagement reflects the perceived importance of financial literacy and its potential impact on business success and community development. The PKM team monitored the training process and assisted participants facing challenges during simulations. By offering guidance and problem-solving support, the team facilitated the learning process and ensured that participants could effectively apply accounting concepts in their business operations. The activity concluded with plans for follow-up support and continuous mentoring to sustain the momentum gained. The ultimate goal is to empower UPK members to run their businesses with sound financial administration practices, thereby contributing to the success of the DAPM program and fostering community development.

The results of the community engagement activity highlight the significance of focused interventions in improving the financial management skills of rural businesses. The activity's objective is to enhance the financial management capabilities of UPK members, hence fostering sustainable business practices and economic resilience in rural communities. An essential component of the conversation centers on the need for financial literacy in promoting economic development in rural areas. Studies have consistently demonstrated that restricted availability of financial services and a deficiency in financial education are significant obstacles to economic growth, especially in rural and neglected populations (Demirguc-Kunt & Klapper, 2012). The program aims to bridge a crucial deficiency in the entrepreneurial abilities of UPK members by offering training and support in financial management. This helps them to make well-informed financial decisions.

Furthermore, the UPK members' enthusiasm and active engagement demonstrate the potential of community-led projects to promote positive transformation and cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship and responsibility. Joe et al. (2019) Research indicates that community involvement initiatives have the potential to bolster social capital and foster trust among community members, resulting in enhanced collaboration and collaborative efforts. Community involvement initiatives can enable people to take charge of their financial destinies and advance more general development objectives by establishing a friendly learning environment and offering customized support.

The activity's success also demonstrates the efficacy of experiential learning methods in developing practical skills and knowledge. Cavanaugh et al. (2023) Research indicates that experiential learning, characterized by active participation in real-world tasks and problem-solving activities, can result in more profound knowledge and skill enhancement. The training sessions included simulated exercises of the accounting cycle, allowing UPK members to apply theoretical principles to practical settings. This activity improved their understanding and proficiency in financial management.

In addition, the exercise emphasizes the significance of ongoing support and follow-up to maintain the progress achieved. Yiming et al. (2023) Research highlights the significance of social support and encouragement in promoting self-efficacy and motivation. The PKM team may support UPK members by offering continuous coaching and guidance, enabling them to overcome obstacles and develop a strong sense of self-assurance in their capacity to handle their finances efficiently. Consistent backing is crucial for guaranteeing the enduring triumph of the DAPM program and cultivating a climate of responsibility and innovation in rural communities.

Ultimately, the outcomes of the community involvement endeavor illustrate the significance of cooperative endeavors in tackling financial management obstacles and fostering economic empowerment in rural regions. By utilizing the knowledge and resources available in a specific area, these efforts can stimulate beneficial social and economic transformation and help accomplish sustainable development goals. In order to fully unlock the potential of rural communities and promote inclusive growth and prosperity, it is essential to provide ongoing assistance and active involvement.

5. Conclusion

The community engagement activity conducted to enhance the financial management capabilities of UPK members in Kalijamber Village, Kalijambe District, Sragen Regency, has yielded significant insights and

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outcomes. Through structured training sessions, simulations, evaluations, and discussions, participants have gained essential knowledge and skills to effectively manage their finances and contribute to the success of the DAPM program. This initiative underscores the critical importance of targeted interventions in addressing financial management challenges and promoting economic empowerment in rural areas. By equipping UPK members with financial management training, the activity has addressed crucial gaps in their entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to make informed financial decisions. The enthusiastic participation observed among UPK members highlights the potential for community-driven initiatives to drive positive change and foster a culture of entrepreneurship and accountability. The success of the activity also underscores the effectiveness of experiential learning approaches in building practical skills and knowledge. By providing simulated exercises of the accounting cycle, participants were able to apply theoretical concepts to practical scenarios, leading to deeper learning and skill development. Looking ahead, sustained support and follow-up will be essential in ensuring the long-term success of the DAPM program and fostering a culture of accountability and entrepreneurship within rural communities. Continued mentoring and assistance will empower UPK members to overcome challenges and build confidence in their financial management abilities. In conclusion, this community engagement activity exemplifies the value of collaborative efforts in promoting economic development and poverty alleviation in rural areas. Through ongoing support and engagement, UPK members will be better equipped to navigate financial challenges, sustain their businesses, and contribute to the socio-economic advancement of their communities, representing a significant step towards realizing inclusive growth and prosperity.

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