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The Role Of Rural Library In Community Empowerment (Leshutama Library Case Study)

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Abstract

It is known that rural libraries have an important role in increasing literacy and improving the quality of life of the community by holding empowerment activities. This study aims to determine the role of the Leshutama Library in the community empowerment of Pakisaji Village, Kalidawir District, Tulungagung, East Java, Indonesia. The research is a case study done using a qualitative approach. The subject of this research was the Leshutama Library in which 7 persons were determined as the informants. Sources of data obtained in this study include primary and secondary data sources. Data collection was done through observation, in-depth interviews, and document. Data analysis was done using data reduction and presentation from which conclusions could be drawn. The result of this research is that the Leshutama Library plays an active role in empowering the community in various fields, namely the environment, community skills, and literacy. In the environmental field, the result could be shown from the library's initiative to plant trees and preserve forests, in improving community skills, the library conducts manual screen printing and soybean fermentation training, and in literacy by providing reading collection materials and form study groups.

Keywords: Library, Rural library, Community Empowerment

A. Introduction

Society will certainly experience a change in order to survive in the rapid development of the times. It is undeniable that one of the benchmarks for the progress of a country or state is seen from their advancement of information and technology. Information is important because it can increase and strengthen the knowledge of the society within a state. Without information, humans will experience passive development, especially in this modern era. In this information age, information can be easily obtained and spread through social media and other means of information technologies. However, many parties misuse the information and spread fake news. The emergence of information in society requires people to be able to manage information wisely and well.

The right information can shape the mindset of an open society, as long as it is accompanied by a critical attitude. Considering that the world now has entered an era of competitive informatics, information is very important in triggering the competitiveness of people, institutions, or a country. This is because, to achieve public welfare, it is necessary to have a competitive ability that is supported by information, knowledge, human resources (HR), and others. To fulfill the needs towards information, a mechanism for access to information and the availability of information is highly required. In Indonesia, access to information is fairly easy as the government

has provided facilities for people who want to meet their information needs, one of which is rural libraries.

The rural library has an important function for the community, especially in rural areas. It was developed as a village facility to empower and improve the capabilities and skills owned by the community in the fields of education, economy, culture, literacy, and so on. Kalida (2010) stated that the rural library is defined as one of the institutions that provide services related to the needs of the community in terms of obtaining information and knowledge in the form of reading materials and other activities (Yuliyanto, Y., & Irhandayaningsih, 2019). The Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture (2013) explains that the rural library is a means of cultivating people's interest in reading by providing various sources such as books, magazines, tabloids, newspapers, comics, and other multimedia materials equipped with rooms for reading, discussing, reviewing, writing, and other literacy activities, and supported by the manager as a motivator (Yuliyanto, Y., & Irhandayaningsih, 2019).

The rural library provides several reading collections. The availability of collection materials is in accordance with the needs of the community to facilitate the library's purpose, namely as a learning center. The rural library is a means of adding and expanding the knowledge and insight of the community, in which it can hone and add to the skills of the community to explore superior local produces that are considered as regional specialties (Damayani et al., 2017). Akanwa et al., (2019) explained that rural libraries as a branch of public libraries have an important role to stimulate development, because they obtain, preserve and provide relevant information resources to the public for the growth of their environmental knowledge. This intellectual body is the basis for making changes in their daily social and economic fields.

Another function of the establishment of the rural library is as a forum for community empowerment in various fields. Community empowerment is an activity carried out to improve human self-reliance and improve the quality of community life. The purpose of community empowerment is the exploration of society's skills, by combating the underdevelopment and building a more advanced and prosperous society in the era of the rapid development of technology and information. Community empowerment is defined as an effort to restore or improve the ability of a community in carrying out its rights and responsibilities as members of the community (Zaki, 2010). Community empowerment can be started from a small-scale social level first, as in the village or sub-district level.

Several previous studies related to the role of rural libraries in community empowerment have been conducted, including those carried out by (Retno et al., 2015) This research focuses on the empowerment that has been carried out by the rural library in increasing knowledge and community skills. In addition, research conducted by (Ruslan, 2020) focuses on the role of the reading community in literacy-based community empowerment. Other research has been done by (Yuliyanto, Y., & Irhandayaningsih, 2019), this study discusses the role of the rural library in community empowerment. Another research that has been done by (Agustiani, 2021) focuses on the role of the Matahari Indonesia rural library in empowerment through the literacy movement.

This study aims to complement the research that has been conducted before. Based on observations in the field, the majority of the people in Pakisaji Kalidawir

village make a living as farmers, ranchers, and planters. Thus, Leshutama Library is expected to provide new knowledge, hone and increase community skills in accordance with the programs held in the library. The main reason for choosing the Leshutama Library as the object of research is because this rural library has many achievements at the local or national level. Such as the "*Satu Indonesia Award*" organized PT. Astra International in the category of forest and spring conservations. In addition to this award, the Leshutama Library also received an award for the establishment of a home library from Jawa Pos Radar Tulungagung.

Based on the problems above, this study aims to find out how the role of the Leshutama Library in community empowerment through empowerment activities that have been held.

B. Literature Review

Based on the topic of discussion, the author lists several theories as follows:

1. Rural library

The rural library is a public library located in a rural area that provides services for the needs of the local population. Akanwa (2013) even mentioned that rural libraries have all the characteristics of public libraries, but they are smaller with fewer visitors than those in urban areas (Ruslan, 2020). According to the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture (2013), the rural library serves as a forum for literacy and interest in reading development through services in the form of reading collections such as books, magazines, newspapers, tabloids, comics, and non-printed materials equipped with facilities for reading, discussion, or writing, as well as various other literacy activities, hence, library managers act as motivators (Munir & Hidayatullah, 2019).

The rural library has another function, namely, as a place for the community to meet their information needs through the many collections that are provided free of charge. With the rural library, it is hoped that it can help overcome information backwardness among the community in various fields, both in the fields of education, health, economy, and even culture. The first function is as a place of learning for the community. Second, as a place to obtain sources of information either from books, or other collection materials that are of course as needed. Third, it can be used as a place of research through the provision of various collections. Fourth, it can be used as a reference source. And the last, as a place of entertainment or recreation that can increase knowledge (Insani, 2016). The purpose of establishing a rural library is to foster interest in reading through the materials provided by the library, as well as increasing the visitors' knowledge and productivity, both for researchers, new scholars, and the general public (Syamsuddin et al., 2015).

Another opinion regarding the rural library is that the rural library is the main means to realize the concept of lifelong learning made by the community or government through the means of reading materials to improve the quality of life of the surrounding community (Damayani et al., 2017). The establishment of a rural library is one concern towards the importance of providing easy-to-access information facilities for the community (Lestari et al., 2015).

Based on the various definitions and statements above, the author concludes that the rural library has an important function in developing knowledge in the community. The rural library is not only a place to read books, with many available collections and materials that are in line with the needs of the community, it is also expected to be a

place to find a lot of information, as a learning center and improve the community's skills. In addition, the library can be used as a means of recreation, in which the visitors will be able to gain new information as they relax in their free time.

2. The Role of the Rural library

The rural library has a general role, namely as a source of information, a place for non-formal education and research, as a forum to preserve the culture, as well as a place for educational recreation. Meanwhile, the role of the rural library specifically includes: 1. As an intermediary to provide all information through reading materials in the library. 2. As a means of developing communication between visitors and library managers. 3. As a means to increase interest in reading, improve literacy culture, and meet the information needs of the community through reading collections. 4. Play an active role as a motivator, facilitator, mediator for people who wish to increase their knowledge. 5. Become an agent of change through activities programs held by the library. 6. As a non-formal educational institution so that people can learn independently to hone and improve their knowledge and skills. 7. The rural library manager can act as a guide or consultant for library users and provide an understanding of the importance of science. 8. Preserving various kinds of reading collections, both books, magazines, newspapers, and others (Sutarno NS, 2006).

The role of the rural library, in general, is as a source of learning, a source of information, and a means of educational recreation, which is considered useful for increasing community empowerment in various fields (Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Masyarakat, 2013). Dent in Abu et al., (2011) explains that there are several general purposes why rural libraries were developed: 1. to help rural children and adults retain the knowledge gained from their education; 2. to help rural communities understand the country's social, political and economic efforts and nation-building efforts; 3. assisting the development of healthy family life, providing materials on social, economic development and health care; and 4. inspire community members to read, use books, access information and knowledge, and enjoy all materials in the library for education and recreation.

Based on some of these explanations, it can be concluded that the role of the rural library is very important as a means of developing knowledge and information, as it aims to prevent people from experiencing information backwardness. The rural library plays an active role in honing and improving community skills through organized empowerment activities.

3. Community Empowerment

Community development is a comprehensive process between motivators, facilitators, and the community groups that are being empowered through many aspects, for example in knowledge, skills, and various other fields in order to improve the welfare of society (Wrihatnolo & Dwidjowijoto, 2007).

In the library report, the State Library of Victoria (2005) explains that there are four ways to identify libraries that can contribute to community empowerment, such as providing free access to computers and information resources, assistance, running lifelong learning programs, enabling community literacy activities, and ia able to maintain good relations with individuals, groups, and government.

Maani, KD (2011) further explains three things that need to be done in community empowerment through the ACTORS theory, which includes the following: 1. Development needs to be directed at structural changes, 2. Development is directed at community empowerment as an effort to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and inequality by providing possible space and opportunity for the community to participate in development. 3. Development needs to be oriented to cross-sectoral coordination which includes development programs between special development sectors and regions. The framework of empowerment can be seen through the acronym of “ACTORS” namely **A**: Authority, **C**: Confidence and competence, **T**: Trust, **O**: Opportunities, **R**: Responsibilities, **S**: Support (endorsement)

By applying the ACTORS theoretical framework, community empowerment may grow well. This refers to empowerment that comes from within and outside the community, where the government and non-government sectors play a major role as actors in human resource development.

C. Method

The research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. Lexy J. Moleong revealed that qualitative research is done to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, and others holistically and by describing using words and language, in a special context that is natural and by utilizing various scientific methods (Lexy J. Moleong, 2011). Descriptive research according to Sulisty-Basuki is research related to the ideas, perceptions, opinions, or beliefs of a person being studied, and the whole cannot be measured by numbers (Basuki, 2006). A case study is a series of scientific activities carried out intensively, in detail, and in-depth about a program, event, and activity, either individuals, groups, institutions, or organizations to gain in-depth knowledge about the event. Thus, descriptive qualitative research with case studies is fact-oriented research obtained in the field, described in detail and in-depth about an activity or program, either individually or in groups.

This research was conducted in Leshutama Library, precisely in Pakisaji village, Kalidawir district, Tulungagung. The authors selected this location as it actively organizes community empowerment activities, both in the field of environment and community literacy, besides that it also has many achievements including “*Satu Indonesia Award*” organized by PT. Astra International in the category of forest and spring conservations. In addition, the Leshutama Library also received an award for the establishment of a home library from Jawa Pos Radar Tulungagung. This research was done from November 2020 to January 2021. The subjects in this study were the Leshutama Library with 7 informants, including 2 managers, and 5 library visitors.

The authors applied purposive sampling to determine the informants. Purposive sampling is done according to the criteria that have been determined by the researcher. Informants were selected based on certain considerations and objectives. The criteria for determining informants are as follows:

1. Key informants, based on:
 - a. Knowing and being involved in activities that have been held by the Leshutama Library.
 - b. Acting as a manager involved in decision-making in the Leshutama Library.
2. Non-key informants, based on:

- a. Someone who has visited the Leshutama Library or the people who live around the rural library.
- b. Involved in the implementation of activities that have taken place at the Leshutama Library.

Data collection techniques in this study were carried out by means of observation, interviews, and literature studies. First, a direct observation related to the role of the Leshutama Library in community empowerment. Second, interviews and document to the relevant informants. The third is previous literature studies, both in the form of books and research journals. Therefore, the data obtained in this study used two sources, primary and secondary data. Data analysis was done using data reduction and presentation from which conclusions could be drawn. The data validity technique used in this study is the triangulation data validity technique. According to (Mekarisce, 2020) there are three triangulation techniques; (1) source triangulation, (2) technical triangulation, and (3) time triangulation. This research applied source triangulation techniques because the results of the data were obtained from various sources.

D. Results and Discussion

1. Leshutama Library Profile

The Leshutama library is located in Dusun Jigang, RT 01, RW 05, Pakisaji Village, Kalidawir District, Tulungagung Regency. Leshutama library is one of the rural libraries with environmental themes, which shows its concern towards the surrounding environment. The name Leshutama stands for "forest conservation and springs saving" (Pelestarian Hutan dan Penyelamatan Mata Air). Thus, the founder of the rural library hopes that in the future, literacy can be realized as a form of contribution to the movement to care for the environment. In addition to the environmental care activities, the Leshutama Library also has several activities targeted to increase the skill and interest of the community around the rural library, including; manual t-shirt screen printing training, recycling of used materials, manufacture of fermented animal feed, etc.

The Leshutama Tulungagung rural library has been pioneered since early 2010 under the auspices of the Yayasan Cendikia Nusantara (YCN, Nusantara Scholar Foundation) in Pakisaji Village, Kalidawir District, Tulungagung and was legalized independently in 2017. However, when the rural library was legalized, it still had a very minimal collection of reading materials. At the beginning of 2017, this rural library only had a collection of approximately 800 books which included a general collection of 200 copies, 400 copies of textbooks from elementary to high school levels, 150 copies of novels, 75 copies of history books, 15 copies of farming guides, and cooking recipes as many as 10 copies, as well as simple facilities. However, the manager of the Leshutama Library hopes that the existence of a simple rural library can participate in the state in educating the nation's life, and the existence of the Leshutama Library is hoped to form a civil society mindset and realize the moral and mental development of the nation.

The founder of the Leshutama library started this reading corner to create a non-formal learning space. In this reading corner, one can explore knowledge and information widely. Departing from this, library is often recognized as a life-long education facility. Reading corners are also regarded so because they can serve all elements of the surrounding community without age limits. Likewise, the Leshutama library has a strategic role in participating in educating the community, especially in

growing the character of the nation's generation, be it to students and generally to the wider community.

Activities that are held varies from the field of literacy, such as a collective planting activity known as "Tandur Bareng," in which the library managers hope that the surrounding community can maintain and preserve the environment and balances the forest ecosystem.



Figure 1. Leshutama library (Image Source: Mukhosis' Document, 2020)

2. The role of the Leshutama library in community empowerment

a. The role of the Leshutama Library in the environmental field

The form of empowerment carried out at the Leshutama Library was first in the environmental field, following the aim and spirit of the library to preserve forests and springs, empowerment was carried out through a collective tree planting activity or commonly called "Tandur Bareng (Planting Together) to preserve the forest, springs, and animals." This activity is held regularly once a year in January, in Kedungjalin, Junjung Village, Sumbergempol District, Tulungagung, or more precisely in the Argo Pathok area of Candi Dadi. This Tandur Bareng activity was originally an activity from the community known as Argo Pathok Candi Dadi Association (APC), in which the administrator and founder of the Leshutama library, Abdul Mukhosis, was part of the organizing committee and the originator of the Tandur Bareng movement:

"Tandur Bareng activities include a routine rural library fair which involves Leshutama. The collective planting activity is held to raise public awareness of the importance of natural resources. In addition, this activity aims to prevent droughts, floods, and landslides. This is an effort to preserve natural wealth as a tourism asset considering that in the planting location there are many historical relics, including; Candi Dadi, Sumber Urip, Goa Kodok, Candi Gumali, Candi Bubrah, Candi Urung dan Goa Pasi. Hence, we consider the the area deserves to be guarded and preserved." (Mukhosis, 2020).

This Tandur Bareng activity is a form of collaboration with several parties, including various communities in Tulungagung, KHP Blitar, the tourism and culture office of Tulungagung, Jujung Village government, LMDH Junjung, and the people of Dusun Kedungjalin, Junjung Village, Sumbergempol District, Tulungagung Regency. The seeds obtained for Tandur Bareng were donations from several parties, such as tree planting which was done on January 5, 2020, seed donors from the Pagerwojo environmental care group which amounted to 500 cashew seeds, 1,500 soursop, guava, sapodilla, mango, and avocado seeds from the environmental service (DLH, Dinas

Lingkungan Hidup). Seed donations also came from IAIN Tulungagung with a total of 500 soursop, guava, sapodilla, mango, avocado, and star fruit seeds.

From the results of interviews that authors conducted with several people who had participated in these activities, several benefits and impressions were felt by the informants after they participated in Tandur Bareng. An informant who was one of the representatives from DEMA FUAD IAIN Tulungagung said that,

“What I feel from participating in the tree planting activity is that there are still many people who care and love the environment. By doing this activity, we prevent the earth from becoming barren. I feel that this is a fun event to join, participants can plant their own trees in the spots provided by the committee. What I want to say is, I hope this event can be held continuously and expand its wings, in which it will reach other places after Tulungagung” (Nia, 2020).

Another opinion regarding the Tandur Bareng activity was also expressed by Thyo, a member of the Pencak Silat (martial art) organization who also participated in the collective planting activity:

“Activities like this are very important, we can’t just let the slope slide, the trees that have been planted will grow bigger and be able to absorb carbon dioxide, and can minimize flooding, etc. Collective movements such as this can also strengthen kinship between organizations and communities” (Thyo, 2020).

Quoted below is another statement from Abdul Mukhosis (2021) as the committee of the holding of the joint tender program,

“The Tandur Braeng, a collective planting activity held by the Leshutama Library, aims to provide education to the public that forest conservation is very important to avoid natural disasters such as landslides, floods, and land fires.”

The results of the interview above is in line with the description of Sutarno (2006) in his book entitled *“Libraries and Society”* which defines the role of the rural library in particular as a motivator, facilitator, mediator for people who wish to increase knowledge and become agents of change through programs that have been held by reading corners. Tandur Bareng has various benefits for nature, such as restoring the function of the forest as a support for human life, protect from animal scarcity, water sources, and so on. At the same time, the large number of communities participating in these activities is a manifestation of the effort to make people aware and provide real examples that humans must join hands in taking care of nature.



Figure 2. Tandur Bareng Activities at Argo Pathok Candi Dadi (Mukhosis' Document, 2020)

b. The Role of the Leshutama Library in Improving Community Skills

Other forms of community empowerment can be seen in the field of skills, such as screen printing training. This manual screen printing training will be held if there are people who want to learn screen printing, as it is not included in the routine library activities. The media used during this screen printing training are tools provided by the event organizers, including sacks or plastic bags, the printing sheets, frames, and ink. The results of the screen printing training can be used for rice packaging, both from sacks and plastic materials. In addition, it can also be used for other products packaging. Training activity has many benefits that have been felt by several participants in the activity, one of which is Mamad who is a resident of Tanjungsari Village, Kalidawir District, he said,

"The t-shirt screen printing activity really gave me new experience and knowledge. From the manual screen printing training, now I already have a screen printing side business for plastic rice packaging" (Mamad, 2020).



Figure 3. Manual screen printing activities (Mukhosis' Document, 2019)

In addition to providing training in manual screen printing skills, the Leshutama library also held training on using fermented soybeans for animal feed. This fermentation activity utilizes the straw and epidermis of soybeans. Soybean straw is one of the wastes from soybean plants that are often thrown away. The utilization of soybean straw as animal feed is a very appropriate business because farmers and ranchers may fully use all parts of the soybean to meet the needs of livestock relying on greenery, such as cows and goats. This training may assist farmers and ranchers in reducing the cost of feed for their livestock. According to one of the residents who had attended the training, he explained that:

"This training, which uses fermented soybeans for animal feed, is very useful because by utilizing fermented soybeans we can minimize the costs. Besides that, it is easy to manufacture" (Siti Maisaroh, 2020)

The training also utilizes the soybean husks as a result of tempeh-making waste after going through the process of boiling and soaking, as it is considered to have good nutrition and protein for livestock. The fermentation of soybean husks is commonly used for poultry, such as chickens, ducks, and so on. One resident who attended the training mentioned that,

"This training is very useful for those of us who have ducks, because by using fermented soybean husks, we reduce our expenditure on feed since the husks can be obtained free of charge, and ducks can grow well from the many nutrients contained in the soybean husks," (Vishnu, 2020)

Another expression was conveyed by Abdul Mukhosis (2021) that,

"This training is carried out to train the community's skills in the field of entrepreneurship, as well as provide facilities in the development of community skills, especially those in the vicinity of the library, from the manual screen-printing training activity, many of the training participants now have a screen-printing business, such as for product packaging. Some make rice sacks from jute or plastic materials, some make manual screen-printing on soy milk packaging".

In line with the role of the rural library, according to the theory expressed by Saepudin, et al (2017) in an article entitled *"The Role of rural library For Early Childhood"* The purpose of organizing a rural library is to create a quality and independent community with knowledge, skills, advanced culture, and civility in various fields. By holding various training, it is hoped that the surrounding community can improve and hone their knowledge and skills.

c. The Role of Leshutama Library in Literacy

Empowerment in the field of literacy organized by the Leshutama Library is by procuring collection materials. The existence of various collections of reading materials helps to meet the information needs of the community. Observation shows that many elementary school children often visit the Leshutama Library to read books, both textbooks for doing homework, or simply to read comics (Observation, 2020). The reading collections available in the Leshutama Library are not only collections for children, but also teenagers and adults, such as novels, history books, farming guides, recipes, etc.

Another activity is the study group program. This activity was first held in 2011 and aims to make the surrounding community, especially children who are still studying, take full advantage of the Leshutama Library. Study groups are held every Monday to Thursday at 07.00 WIB - 10.00 WIB for elementary students and start at 13.00 WIB for junior high school and high school/vocational students. This study group provides facilities for students who have difficulty understanding the material and completing school assignments. The availability of a collection of reading materials can be used as supporting material for children's learning activities. According to Atik Hasanah (2021) as the organizer of study group activities and rural library managers:

“As for literacy-based programs, the implementation can be seen through the provision of reading materials, the study groups of Leshutama library that intends to improve the literacy of the surrounding community, and additional facilities in community learning activities.”

Siti Maisarah (2021) also expressed her opinion that:

"The availability of reading materials makes it easier for people to find new information and knowledge, as well as learning group activities that are useful for school children who need to do their schoolwork"



Figure 4. Leshutama Library study group activity (Image source: Atik Hasanah’s document, 2021)

This is in line with the role of the rural library as a forum to cultivate the love of reading in the community and provide reading materials in the form of books, magazines, newspapers, tabloids, comics, and non-printed materials equipped with rooms for reading, discussions, writing, and various activities to hone the literacy skills, in which the rural library managers act as motivators (Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Masyarakat, 2013). Empowerment through several programs that have been organized by the Leshutama Library is a form of effort to improve human resources, especially those around the reading corner. Increased human resources in an area will affect the quality of life of the community.

Libraries as institutions engaged in education are expected to have a positive impact on the environment. Especially in the rural library which is expected to provide added value to the rural environment. From the findings of the data above, it can be concluded that the Leshutama Library has had a positive impact on the surrounding community in three areas, namely the environment, community skills, and literacy. In the environmental field, the library contributes by planting trees to preserve forests, in the field of improving community skills, conducting manual screen printing and soybean fermentation training, and in literacy by providing reading collection materials and conducting study groups.

The results of this study support the results of previous studies which state that rural libraries can contribute to increasing knowledge and skills (Retno et al., 2015), access to information, life-long learning, literacy, and social capital, (State Library of Victoria, (SLV2005), Moster, (1998), Abu et al., (2011), Ruslan, (2020), Yuliyanto, Y., & Irhandayaningsih, (2019), Agustiani, (2021). In addition, the existence of this community empowerment program has proven to be able to unite citizens, both young and old. This is in line with the opinion of Kranich (2001) which states that community

empowerment can provide innovative and creative programs, unite citizens and break down barriers of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and language.

One thing that needs to be added from the community empowerment program in this rural library is to include information technology in its activities. Information and communication technology in the current era is needed, as it can even make various aspects of life easier. Rural libraries equipped with ICT facilities and services (including the internet) can play an active role in creating activities that have an impact on the economy and social life in rural communities (Bashir et al.2011; Samah et al.2011). In addition, the use of ICT can also have an impact on economic progress, education, communication, and encourage positive development in rural communities (Thioune 2003). However, there is one thing that needs to be considered when implementing information and communication technology, namely the correlation between individual behavior in rural areas and the desire to use ICT. This is based on research conducted by Samsuddin et al., (2018) who stated that rural youth in Malaysia were not dependent on the ICT facilities provided by their rural libraries.

The presence of the Leshutama Library among the Pakisaji Village community is expected to have a positive influence on the community by increasing literacy and reading interest, in addition to empowering community skills to be used as a forum for increasing knowledge and skills. Hence, it may motivate entrepreneurship and increase the family economy. Various empowerment programs organized by the Leshutama Library also aim to attract public visits to visit the library so that the community might receive benefits from the library as stated by the Directorate of Community Education, namely that rural libraries may increase community empowerment in various fields (Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Masyarakat, 2013).

E. Conclusion

Several empowerment activities that have been held by the Leshutama Library are divided into three areas; empowerment in the environmental field through a tree-planting program to preserve forests, manual screen printing training and soybean skin fermentation training as an effort to improve community skill, and for literacy, the library holds study group activity for elementary to high school students. The benefits of community empowerment activities in the environmental field are to make people aware of the importance of conserving forests, restoring forest functions as a support for human life, so as to minimize the occurrence of natural disasters. The benefits in the effort to improve community skills are the added skill and knowledge of the locals who participated in the program, as they may develop an interest in entrepreneurship and be economically independent. Lastly, the benefits that can be taken from the library's effort in the literacy field are the reading materials provided for the visitors, as well as the study groups organized for students to do and complete school assignments.

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