


Promoting Environmental Stewardship and Public Health: A Comprehensive Community Service Initiative

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ABSTRACT

Sesi sosialisasi, yang ditandai dengan perpaduan terstruktur antara presentasi materi (30%) dan diskusi interaktif (70%), berfungsi sebagai platform pendidikan bagi siswa sekolah dasar untuk memahami pentingnya menjaga gaya hidup bersih dan sadar kesehatan. Kegiatan lapangan selanjutnya melibatkan peserta dalam upaya pemecahan masalah secara kolaboratif, terutama diwujudkan melalui inisiatif pembersihan yang disinkronkan di lingkungan sekolah dan pengenalan tong sampah otomatis berteknologi canggih. Selain itu, proyek ini menggabungkan inovasi teknologi dengan memperkenalkan tong sampah otomatis, yang dirancang secara strategis untuk menarik minat para siswa dan memberikan pengetahuan penting tentang praktik pembuangan sampah yang tepat. Temuan ini menggarisbawahi kemampuan pendekatan bernuansa yang menggabungkan upaya pendidikan, upaya praktis, dan intervensi teknologi dalam membentuk perilaku berkelanjutan di kalangan generasi muda, sehingga memberikan dampak positif pada lingkungan masyarakat yang lebih luas.

The socialization sessions, characterized by a structured mix of material presentations (30%) and interactive discussions (70%), served as an educational platform for primary school students to understand the importance of maintaining a clean and health-conscious lifestyle. Subsequent field activities engaged participants in collaborative problem-solving efforts, primarily realized through synchronized cleaning initiatives in the school environment and the introduction of technologically advanced automated trash cans. In addition, the project incorporated technological innovation by introducing automated trash cans, which were strategically designed to capture the interest of the students and provide essential knowledge on proper waste disposal practices. The findings underscore the efficacy of a nuanced approach that combines educational efforts, practical efforts, and technological interventions in shaping sustainable behavior among the younger generation, thereby positively impacting the broader community environment.



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INTRODUCTION

The environment is a medium in which all living things exist, work, and have distinct personalities and roles that are interconnected with the existence of all other living things that occupy it, particularly humans who play a more significant and intricate role. Individuals with feelings and motivations to act are called humans. Every human action has an effect on the surrounding social and physical environment. Through a variety of acts, humans have the capacity to cause disasters. These activities affect the environment as well, resulting in responses from both the natural world and people.

An environment that is both good and healthy is necessary for human survival. Everything that surrounds us, whether it is alive or not, such as the air, water, soil, plants, animals, and microbes, is referred to as the environment. Although humans are allowed to use them, they also have an obligation to preserve and protect the environment. But the truth is that environmental degradation is currently plaguing us as a result of human disregard for the environment (O'Sullivan, 2015).

People's health is affected by poor environmental quality. Many different kinds of organisms that cause and carry disease thrive in unclean environments (Ghaffari, 2018). A person consequently becomes more prone to several illnesses. A major contributing factor to environmental harm is people's ignorance of the correct disposal of waste, as evidenced by the prevalence of trash being thrown into rivers.

Rivers are used by people as trash or waste disposal sites. There are multiple explanations for why individuals dump trash into waterways. Among them, tossing trash into the river is seen as more convenient and liberated; also, there are no amenities and it has become customary to throw trash into the river. Littering beside rivers contributes to increased contamination of the river water, which is actually their own source of water (Alexakis, 2020). The sustainability of river ecosystems and the sources of water that humans depend on for drinking and irrigation—such as rice fields—may also be impacted by this behavior (Kumar et al., 2019). The practice of discarding trash into rivers needs to be curbed in order to prevent it from being carried on by future generations.

A good home environment is necessary to build a prosperous and healthy society in the future. When it comes to garbage, the term "healthy" refers to a state that can be attained if waste is appropriately managed to remove it from the residential areas where people live and work. It is imperative that the waste management system be executed correctly and methodically, particularly for urban regions. The usage of different waste infrastructure and facilities, such as those for processing, final disposal, transportation, collecting, and storage, will be a part of waste management activities. People must be concerned about their living environment in order to create a healthy home environment.

The definition of caring for the environment is having attitudes and behaviors that consistently work to protect the surrounding natural environment and advance environmental conservation initiatives. Through assisting individuals, families, groups, and communities, the Clean and Healthy Living Behavior Program seeks to promote health and ensure that everyone in the community may live in a clean and healthy environment (Richardson, 2018). This seeks to improve behavior, attitudes, and understanding in order to adopt a healthy lifestyle and maintain, preserve, and enhance health.

Given this context, the purpose of this community service project is to raise awareness of the value of safeguarding the environment by properly disposing of trash. It is intended that by providing this service, the community will be more interested in disposing of waste in the appropriate location and will be able to develop the virtue of environmental conservation. Community service is done, particularly in the form of basic education, to foster in children a concern for the environment from a young age.

METHOD

This community service is completed by fieldwork, conversation, and material presentation, among other socialization or outreach techniques. Counseling is a learning activity that teaches people or groups different skills, knowledge, and information to help them develop attitudes and behaviors that will lead to a decent existence. Counseling is essentially an informal way to influence society in the direction of the desired improvement. When it comes to socialization, the amount and target audience must be considered in order to get the best possible effects. In this case, the target audience is elementary school pupils. In order to encourage participation and make the activity more exciting overall, 30% of the time is devoted to the presentation of socialization material and the remaining 70% to discussion.

Field action was the next step in the socialization process. A simultaneous, collaborative problem-solving process is known as field action. Humanitarian issue-solving initiatives involve a learning process in addition to problem solving. It is intended that by using this learning technique, children would become more conscious of the need to keep the environment clean by throwing away

trash in the appropriate location. Combined cleaning projects in the elementary school setting and the introduction of automated garbage can technology were the field operations completed.

All the mechanisms by which products necessary for human survival and comfort can be provided are found in technology. The technology employed in this competition seeks to raise students' interest in properly disposing of their trash. Stated differently, Socialization on the Implementation of Clean and Healthy Living Behavior goes beyond simple health and hygiene teaching or counseling to help students see the value of keeping their surroundings clean and healthy. Still, the program itself—hygiene and health—focuses on students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

People's knowledge will undoubtedly increase and their skills will be enhanced by this activity. The following are the phases of community service that are completed:

Indoctrination

The Clean and Healthy Living Behavior program's socialization phase was implemented at the Elementary School. Students in grades 5 and 6 as well as the Principal attended the socialization sessions, which were led by teachers. Students make up a sizable portion of society, participate in well-established school organizations, are present in both rural and urban regions, and have access to school health services. Children in elementary school are a generation that embraces new ideas with ease and is eager to share what they learn with others. In order to increase environmental consciousness and spread the value of environmental cleanliness to future generations, socialization programs titled "Socialization on the Implementation of Healthy and Clean Living Behavior" are being implemented at the elementary school level.

A teacher served as the resource person for the socialization of the implementation of clean and healthy living behaviors, providing an explanation of what was meant by "clean and healthy." Students are then taught how to include healthy and clean living during the socialization stage. The socializing meeting's primary topics are how to properly wash hands, how to maintain a healthy diet through portion control, how to introduce the 4-R (Replace, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), and what happens when trash is thrown into rivers or not disposed of properly.



Figure 1. Socialization Among Teachers

The socialization sessions got more dynamic as predicted by the socialization strategy used, as seen by the students' eagerness to respond to the presenters' questions. It is clear from the socializing exercises that students understand the concept of a clean and healthy lifestyle, but they still struggle to

put it into practice. Socialization is essentially an informal process that aims to transform society into the desired state. Counseling targets' conduct is anticipated to change as a result of the knowledge acquired. Field action efforts to clean the school environment shown that the results of implementing clean and clean living grew after the socialization process was completed. Students start practicing healthy and clean living, such as properly disposing of their trash and washing their hands after engaging in activities.

Experiential Learning

Following the socializing session, fieldwork operations to clean up the environment were conducted inside the elementary school. The purpose of this field activity is to influence students' mental processes and habits in order to influence their behavior and inspire them to do so. It is believed that if behavior has changed, children will be able to preserve their health by washing their hands after engaging in activities, protect the environment by disposing of their trash in the designated areas, and take responsibility for the trash they make. It is believed that after engaging in participatory behavior modification instruction in the classroom, kids will have an impact on their parents, other families, and neighbors.



Figure 2. Socialization Among Stakeholders

The Automatic Trash Can Was Introduced

The science of employing tools and crafts to control and adapt to the environment is known as technology. People's daily lives can be improved and information retrieval made simpler as technology advances. This facilitates the public's easy access to all information, good and bad. It is now impossible to separate the advancement of technology from human life. Technology's beneficial effects start with the way it transforms natural resources into basic machinery. For instance, by developing automatic garbage cans, which try to encourage people to dispose of their trash in the proper location.

With the help of this automated trash can, hopefully, students can learn to dispose of their trash in the proper location. It is evident from the introduction and usage demonstration of an automatic trash can that students are ecstatic to receive one. Student representatives introduced mechanized trash cans and gave examples of how to utilize them.

CONCLUSION

This community service program comes to the conclusion that by educating the public about the adoption of healthy and clean living behaviors, especially among the younger generation, environmental cleanliness and health can be improved. The 30% material, 70% conversation approach of socialization implementation can go as expected, meaning that the socialization event will grow more animated. Generally speaking, this service project can raise students' knowledge and consciousness of environmental health and cleanliness, enabling them to adopt an attitude of environmental protection (putting trash in its proper place) and health maintenance (washing hands after activities). The field action projects that are done in classroom settings demonstrate this. In addition, using technology effectively is crucial to piqueing students' interest in properly disposing of their waste.

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