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Empowerment and Assistance in Mosque Management in the Establishment of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit of Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque

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Abstract	Mosques are places where Muslims gather. Since the time of Rasulullah saw., mosques have been the basis for the development of Islam. However, currently, most mosques only function as places of worship, because mosque management is less than optimal and lacks innovation. Therefore, as academics with an Islamic education background, we strive to empower and assist mosque management. The location of the dedication is the Great Ruhama Takengon mosque. This service aims to empower and assist mosque management to realize the Great Ruhama Takengon Mosque as a UPTD Mosque. The service method is carried out using Participation Action Research (PAR) and participant observation in the sense that the service member is directly involved in the activity and becomes a resource person in the group discussion forum (FGD), as well as the service member being the perpetrator of the activity. The results of the service show that the mentoring program is very beneficial for the formation of the UPTD of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque and needs to continue and even be improved until the issuance of the UPTD Decree from the Regent of Central Aceh

1. INTRODUCTION

The management of mosques in this modern era is very necessary to increase the empowerment of people (Kadarin, 2018). Make the mosque comfortable for people to worship (Khasanah et al., 2023). In addition, mosque management is needed in the context of planning and organizing programs (Hasibuan, 2020). However, there are still many mosques in Indonesia that have not managed their mosques properly, as stated by Romi Suradi that there are still many mosques that do not have special

planned administrators and programs (Suradi, 2021). There are still many mosques whose finances depend on other parties, so they do not have the independence to innovate (Hudria, 2022). The management of the mosque is handed over to the elderly with low managerial ability (Word, 2023). The above conditions also often occur in Takengon City, Central Aceh.

Central Aceh is one of the districts in Aceh Province. Aceh Province has the privileges of Indonesian territory. One of the features of Aceh is the application of Islamic law in the province. As a form of implementing Islamic law, the Government of Aceh and district/city governments are responsible for implementing Islamic sharia (HAM, 2006). So, every district/city in Aceh Province must have a mosque as a Regional Technical Implementation Unit. However, in Central Aceh, there is no mosque as UPTD. Central Aceh already has a district mosque located close to the Central Aceh Regency Government Office, namely the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque. Ruhama Mosque is indeed projected to become a UPTD mosque in Central Aceh Regency. Based on the initial survey, there are several problems in realizing UPTD mosques in Central Aceh Regency. Central Aceh Regency. The main problem is management and funding. From these problems, we are interested in carrying out community service entitled Empowerment and support for mosque management to realize the Great Mosque of Ruhama Takengon as a UPTD Mosque.

This community service activity program is based on the theme "community empowerment or religious institution-based assistance", and takes an assisted location at the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, Central Aceh Regency. The service target is focused on strengthening the empowerment management of the mosque's function as a place of worship and realizing the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque to become UPTD. This effort is based on the observation that there are still many weaknesses in the implementation of mosque management among managers and the importance of regional mosques becoming UPTD as the implementation of Islamic law which is one of the privileges of Aceh Province. Based on the initial survey, there are still obstacles faced in trying to convert Ruhama Takengon Mosque into UPTD Mosque. Among them are budget issues and mosque financial management that worshippers fear will become regional assets. From the above problems, we as academics are called to empower and assist mosque management towards UPTD Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque.

Among them by Edi Winata with the title Mosque Management and Work Program for Quality Improvement of Medan Amal Bhakti Mosque Management, the focus of this service is the implementation of optimal mosque management in order to

realize mosque prosperity in accordance with Islamic teachings, the service method used is through modern mosque management counseling activities (Salik, 2019; Villafuerte & Mosquera, 2020), the results of his service show that, in improving the quality of management of the Medan Bhakti Charity Mosque, (1) the task of making the mosque prosperous is the responsibility of the management to be able to empower the surrounding community (2) the composition of job descriptions for the management and (3) organizational management programs in accordance with their respective fields as stated in the Decree of the Head of the Religious Affairs Office of Medan City Regency No. 54 of 2022 concerning the Management of the Welfare Board of the Amal Bhakti Mosque, Jalan Sisingamangaraja, Lorong Angkutan No. 10, West Teladan Village, Medan City District, Medan City for the 2022-2027 Period (Winata, 2022).

Then the service by Oksep Adhayanto et al entitled Management Management of An-Nur Dompak Selir Mosque, Dompak Village, Bukit Bestari District, Tanjung Pinang, the focus of this service is to increase the knowledge and understanding of mosque administrators in mosque management, the service method used is through the delivery of material in this activity offline (face-to-face) through lectures and discussions. The results of the service of the Tanjungpinang City Government together with its residents are determined to make the mosque a place for community development and community enlightenment (Adhayanto, 2023).

There is a difference between the above services and the services that the author will carry out, namely our services are focused on the realization of UPTD mosque at the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, Central Aceh. The services we carry out aim to empower and help the Great Mosque of Ruhama Takengon as a UPTD Mosque.

2. METHOD

Based on the Participation Action Research (PAR) method used in this service activity, activities are carried out based on 3 main stages. These stages include planning, action, observation, and reflection. The description for each stage will be explained as follows: The strategy used in this community service is participant observation in the sense that researchers are directly involved in activities and become resource persons and actors of activities. This method means that researchers collect various information about the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, then present it to the management of the Mosque Prosperity Council (DKM), the Islamic Sharia Office, the Central Aceh Regency Government, and the congregation of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque in the focus group discussion (FGD). In addition, we will

also provide management assistance to become UPTD mosques to DKM Mosque administrators, Islamic Sharia Offices, and Central Aceh Regency governments.

3.   FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This community service activity is a PKM activity based on religious institutions. PKM activities are carried out synergistically with the implementation of lecturer services to contribute to scientific development and benefit the community. The scientific field that is the focus of this PKM activity is Empowerment and Management of Mosque Assistance. The worship activity aims to assist the DKM management of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency, the Central Aceh Regency Government, and the Ruhama Takengon Great Mosque Jama'ah to be able to empower the mosque for the prosperity of the congregation, by providing insight. more broadly related to the function and role of mosques for Muslims, as well as the realization of the Great Ruhama Takengon mosque as UPTD Mosque.

This PKM activity involves several related parties. First, the PKM assistant/team consists of four lecturers from IAIN Takengon, and two lecturers from the PGMI study program, namely Dr. H. Suwarno, M.Pd.I. and Dr. Ramsah Ali, M.A. 1 lecturer from the PAI Study Program, namely Dr. Ismet Nur, M.A. and 1 lecturer from the PBA study program, namely H. Sufrizal, M.Pd. Second, the target objects of PKM or assisted communities in this study are the DKM administrators of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency, the Central Aceh Regency Government, and the congregation of the Ruhama Takengon Great Mosque so that the UPTD Ruhama Takengon Great Mosque can be realized, and be able to empower the mosque for the prosperity of the congregation, by providing greater insight into the function and role of mosques for Muslims. Third, this activity involved 2 resource persons who were lecturers in 2 study programs. 1 lecturer from the PGMI study program and 1 lecturer from the Islamic Religious Education study program. Fourth, this activity also received support from the Chairman and management of the DKM of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency, the Central Aceh Regency Government, the congregation fund of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque.

Figure 1. Community Service Team Activities Formulation Activities

This activity consists of 3 stages. These stages include pre-service activities and post-service activities. Pre-service activities are used to identify obstacles faced by aid targets. This activity was carried out using observation techniques and focus group discussion (FGD). The core stages in this service activity include planning, action, observation, and reflection. The planning stage went through the FGD with the Head of DKM, Islamic Sharia Office, Central Aceh Regency Government, and other administrators at the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque to map the conditions and problems faced.

Figure 2. Service Team FGD Activities with Related Parties

Furthermore, mapping is carried out through SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. At the action stage, various mentoring activities are carried out (Barreto Araujo, 2016; Kawohan et al., 2021). The activities consisted of (1) introducing UPTD

mosques, (2) presenting UPTD mosque welfare systems, and (3) presenting opportunities for UPTD mosque management. At the observation stage, an initial analysis is carried out on the actions that have been implemented to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the program. In the reflection stage, the PKM team and assisted targets reflect and evaluate the activities that have been carried out to determine things that need to be improved or improved. Reflection and evaluation activities were carried out through FGD with the DKM management of Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency, and the Central Aceh Regency Government. Post-service activities include PKM output preparation activities.

In its implementation, there are several supporting and inhibiting factors for this PKM activity. PKM supporting factors include (1) mentoring activities as a solution to the problems faced by the target of assistance, (2) support from related parties including the head of DKM, the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency, the Central Aceh Regency Government, as well as other administrators and congregations, and (3) supporting human resources from DKM and Jamaah Managers as well as the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency and the Central Aceh Regency Government (A. P. Nugroho et al., 2023; Setiawan et al., 2023). In addition to these supporting factors, several inhibiting factors were found in PKM activities. The first inhibiting factor is the difficulty of the PKM team adjusting the activity schedule with the DKM management of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque, the Islamic Sharia Office of Central Aceh Regency, and the Central Aceh Regency Government. So, PKM activities last longer than the planned timeline due to the difficulty of the PKM team in adjusting the schedule.

3.1. Planning Phase

At the planning stage, FGDs are conducted to conduct a SWOT analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the assisted targets. This activity is used to map the initial condition of the target and the potential problems faced by the target coach. This activity was held on August 16, 2023, and was attended by the PKM team and representatives of the DKM Management, Islamic Sharia Office, Central Aceh Regency Government, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Central Aceh Regency, and related agencies that have the authority to make the Ruhama Agung Takengon mosque a UPTD mosque.

3.2. Action Stage

Based on the problems that have been determined in the previous stage, the

agreed solution to be carried out is to provide insight and socialization and practice the management system of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque in aspects that can be done, for example in terms of collecting *zakat*, *infak*, *sedekah* and distributing to people who are entitled and need it. For example, providing scholarships to orphans, orphans, the poor, and so on. Compensation for people who get sick or die. As well as helping to realize the Great Ruhama Takengon mosque as a UPTD mosque.

3.3. Reflection Stage

Reflection activities are carried out to reflect and evaluate the activities that have been carried out. Based on the results of reflection and evaluation, many shortcomings were found that still need to be corrected. First, it is difficult to find officers.

Second, to make a cash balance of zero rupiah, the management has not dared to do it because they are worried that the basic operational needs of the mosque such as paying electricity bills, water bills, paying worshippers and so on will not be paid.

Third, the realization of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque is still hampered by a Decree that has not been issued by the Regent of Central Aceh. This is because we are still waiting for a budget plan that may reach the end of 2023.

The exploration of "Empowerment and Assistance in Mosque Management in the Establishment of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit" integrates the findings from previous community engagement projects with relevant theoretical frameworks. This juxtaposition aims to offer a comprehensive analysis of how strategic empowerment measures and the integration of a Regional Technical Implementation Unit (RTIU) can synergistically enhance mosque management (Asfahani et al., 2023; Halimah & Machdum, 2023). Earlier community engagement projects have shed light on the pivotal role of empowerment in optimizing mosque management. Findings indicate that initiatives focused on educating mosque leaders, improving financial literacy, and fostering community collaboration contribute significantly to the overall functionality of mosques. This empirical evidence emphasizes the positive correlation between community empowerment and effective mosque governance (Irawan et al., 2023; Prabowo et al., 2021).

The establishment of an RTIU introduces a new dimension to mosque management, providing essential technical assistance and resources. Insights from previous research underscore the potential benefits, such as streamlined processes, improved financial management, and enhanced community services when an RTIU is seamlessly integrated into the mosque management structure (Herry et al., 2019; Prabowo et al., 2021). These findings highlight the transformative impact of technical assistance in fortifying the operational aspects of mosque management. In aligning the

empirical findings, it becomes imperative to incorporate relevant theoretical frameworks. The Community-Based Development (CBD) model, for instance, underscores the importance of community involvement in decision-making processes (Agdal et al., 2019; Arintoko et al., 2020). Applied to mosque management, this model can guide empowerment strategies to ensure they align with the specific needs and aspirations of the community, fostering a more inclusive and responsive approach (L. Nugroho & Hidayah, 2020; Waham et al., 2023).

Moreover, organizational empowerment models like Kanter's Empowerment Theory provide valuable insights into creating environments conducive to motivation, competence, and meaningful participation. Integrating these theoretical underpinnings into mosque management strategies ensures a more sustainable and holistic approach to empowerment, enriching the leadership capabilities and engagement levels of mosque committees and volunteers.

The intersection of empirical insights and theoretical frameworks presents an opportunity for holistic community development. Strategic empowerment measures can be fine-tuned based on empirical evidence, while the integration of an RTIU aligns with theoretical models, creating a robust foundation for mosque management. This convergence, as highlighted by the research, contributes to the resilience and empowerment of the community, establishing an active and engaged role within the RTIU and the broader societal context. In conclusion, the amalgamation of previous empirical research and relevant theoretical frameworks offers a nuanced understanding of how empowerment and assistance intersect in mosque management within the framework of a Regional Technical Implementation Unit. By synthesizing these insights, the research endeavors to provide actionable recommendations that can be instrumental in fortifying mosque management practices and fostering sustainable community development.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the service activities that have been carried out, it can be concluded that the mentoring program is very beneficial for the establishment of the UPTD Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque and needs to be continued and even improved until the UPTD Decree is issued from the Regent of Central Aceh. This can be seen from the enthusiasm and enthusiasm of the management and related parties towards the realization of the Ruhama Takengon Grand Mosque as a UPTD Mosque.

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