

The Role of Muhammadiyah Volunteers in Helping Micro Businesses in Sirenja Subdistrict, Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi Province to Stay in the Middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the efforts made by MDMC Volunteers in helping micro-businesses to survive amid the Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis. This type of research is descriptive qualitative, data collection methods are observation studies, interviews, documentation, and data analysis techniques. The results of the study show that the role of MDMC volunteers in helping micro-businesses to survive the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a very positive effect, apart from providing a capital injection of 4 million rupiahs for each micro business, micro-entrepreneurs are also equipped with health facilities in preventing covid-19 in the form of a place for washing hands using a tap, a collection bucket, and a chair as a holder for washing hands.

Keywords - Role, Micro Business

INTRODUCTION

The spread of the Covid-19 Virus in Indonesia affects the health sector and affects the livelihood sector of the community, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (1). Many MSMEs are forced to go out of business due to the absence of buyers due to Covid-19. The economy has stagnated due to decreased buying and selling activities. Suggestions for social distancing and stay at home to avoid a wider spread of the Coronavirus, more or less contributed to reducing buying and selling activities in the community (2).

A study recently said that Covid-19 would make Indonesia experienced a 0.1 per cent decrease in the percentage of economic growth in 2020 (3).

Even Moody's Investor Service predicts Indonesia's economic growth in 2020 will experience a slowdown at 4.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (4). This value is below the change in 2019, at 5.02 per cent. This economic slowdown is expected to continue in 2021, even though it is accompanied by a slight strengthening, namely growing by only 4.9 per cent (5).

One of the "victims" of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Indonesia is a micro-business actor in Sirenja District, Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi. Although not all are closed, the number of micro-businesses, culinary businesses, salon services, sewing services, and others, which have had to complete due to Covid-19 are 66 micro-businesses 277 micro businesses met by Muhammadiyah Volunteers in the District Sirenja.

METHODOLOGY

This research type is qualitative descriptive with data collection methods, namely observation studies, interviews, documentation, and data analysis techniques (6). Data collection was carried out by directly meeting informants, both micro-entrepreneurs and Muhammadiyah volunteers.

The informants' selection was determined based on the purposive sampling technique (7). Mention, purposive sampling is done by taking the subject not based on strata, random or area, but based on specific goals. This technique is usually carried out for several considerations, for example, reasons for a limited time, energy and funds, so that it cannot take large and distant samples.

After the data was collected, it was analyzed descriptively to see Muhammadiyah volunteers' role in reviving micro-businesses that had closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This research was conducted in Sirenja District, Donggala Regency. The research targets are micro-enterprises scattered in Sirenja District.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to MDMC Volunteer in Sirenja Subdistrict, Andi Sultan, the micro-businesses that have closed due to Covid-19 have, until now, run out of capital, so they cannot reopen. Even though before the Covid-19 epidemic, MDMC had injected IDR 4 million worth to open a business because it had decreased due to the September 28, 2018, earthquake.

The goal of MDMC is to help micro businesses because they are well aware that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have a very strategic role in the Indonesian economy (8). Data from the Indonesian Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises in 2018 shows the number of MSME business units is 99.9 per cent of the total business units or 62.9 million units (8).

MSMEs absorb 97 per cent of the total employment, 89 per cent of which are in the micro sector, and contribute 60 per cent of gross domestic product (9). However, with the Covid-19 epidemic, MDMC's assistance could not run effectively, especially for the 66 businesses that had closed down.

But it is lucky for Indonesia, because according to research conducted by the Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) and The Center for Micro and Small Enterprise Dynamic (CEMSED) (10). MSMEs in Indonesia are unique because they always can develop and survive during a crisis (11).

This CESS and CEMSED research has a point. Because of the 277 micro-businesses that MDMC volunteers met and had received capital assistance of IDR 4 million before the Covid-19 Pandemic, there are still 211 who could survive in the current Covid-19 Pandemic crisis era.

Before the Pandemic, micro-entrepreneurs had been given business planning training, including simple bookkeeping training and entrepreneurship training so that some were able to survive the Pandemic (12).

According to Fery and Dasril in a journal entitled Evaluation of business recovery plan training in the Muhammadiyah disaster management centre program (March 2020), the activity carried out by MDMC. Solidar Suisse is a form of empowerment as motivation or encouragement for Sirenja District people to hone their abilities. It can provide knowledge and skills for people who want to open their own business.

Also, a capital injection of Rp. 4 million was also beneficial. Even the assistance carried out continuously for 12 months by Muhammadiyah volunteers in Sirenja District has kept micro-entrepreneurs' enthusiasm to survive amid the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Around 211 micro-entrepreneurs who were able to survive in the era of the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis in Sirenja are proof that Muhammadiyah Volunteers who are members of the Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC) in helping Micro Businesses to survive amid the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis are instrumental.

They provide business planning training, simple bookkeeping training, and entrepreneurship training so that micro-entrepreneurs can survive when the Covid-19 pandemic hits. Muhammadiyah volunteers also provided other assistance, in the form of health facilities in the prevention of Covid-19, namely a place for washing hands using a tap, a collection bucket, and a chair as a holder for passing hand cleaning soap.

CONCLUSION

In general, Muhammadiyah volunteers have done an excellent job helping micro-businesses in Sirenja District to survive the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis. Business planning training, simple bookkeeping training and entrepreneurship training conducted before the Pandemic were beneficial so that most micro-businesses were still able to survive amid the Pandemic.

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