Symbiosis Civicus

Symbiosis Civicus, September 2024, 1 (2):42-50
DOI: https://doi.org/10.32663/.....

Academic & Cultural Sharing, Observation of Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Exhibitions for Teachers from Riau Schools, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Selangor, Malaysia

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ARTICLE HISTORY

Received : 2024-08-19
Revised : 2024-08-30
Accepted : 2024-09-03

Keywords:
Cultural Sharing
Academic Sharing
Observation of Science
Technology
Entrepreneurship Showcases

ABSTRACT

This Community Service Activity aims to enhance the quality of education and cross-country collaboration through Academic Sharing, Cultural Sharing, and Observation of Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Showcases at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Selangor, Malaysia. This activity involves teachers from Riau engaging in discussions and exchanging knowledge with Malaysian teachers about innovative teaching methods, classroom management, and educational curricula. Additionally, there are cultural exchange sessions where teachers introduce their respective regional cultures through traditional dance, music, and food, aiming to enhance understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures. The teachers also observe exhibitions of science, technology, and entrepreneurship organized by the students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, where they evaluate student projects, learning methods, and entrepreneurial approaches applied. The outcomes of this activity include gaining new insights into teaching methods and classroom management that can be implemented in their schools, fostering closer relationships between educators from Indonesia and Malaysia, and acquiring knowledge about various science, technology, and entrepreneurship projects that can be adapted to enhance learning in schools in Riau. This activity successfully achieves its objectives in improving teacher competence, strengthening international relations, and enriching educational perspectives. Cross-country collaborations like this are highly beneficial for advancing education and learning from each other's best practices.

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the crucial factors in a nation's development. To achieve quality education, continuous efforts are needed to enhance educators' competencies and insights. One effective way to achieve this goal is through the exchange of knowledge and experiences between educational institutions from various regions and countries. Through such exchanges, educators can gain new perspectives on teaching methods and educational management (Haryanto, 2019). In this context, the Community Service activity conducted under the theme Academic Sharing, Cultural Sharing, and Observation of Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Showcase at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Selangor, Malaysia, is a highly relevant concrete step.

Riau Province, as one of the regions in Indonesia, has many primary and secondary schools striving to improve education quality. However, several challenges remain, including limited access to the latest educational technology and innovative teaching methods. Therefore, initiatives are needed to introduce educators in Riau to best practices in education from other countries (Yuliana, 2020). In this activity, teachers from Riau discussed and shared knowledge with teachers in Malaysia about innovative teaching methods, classroom management, and educational curricula. This exchange not only enriches their insights but also provides inspiration to be applied in schools in Riau.

Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Selangor, Malaysia, is known for its excellent programs in science, technology, and entrepreneurship. With their success in integrating technology and innovation into the curriculum, this school is the right choice for the location of this community service activity (Ramli, 2018). In addition to academic sharing, this activity also involves cultural exchange sessions where teachers introduce

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their respective regional cultures through dance, music, and traditional food. This session aims to enhance understanding and appreciation of each culture and strengthen relationships between educators from the two countries.

The teachers also observed the science, technology, and entrepreneurship exhibition organized by the students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding. They assessed student projects, learning methods, and the entrepreneurial approach applied. The results of this activity are the enhancement of new insights into teaching methods and classroom management that can be applied in their schools, the creation of closer relationships between educators from Indonesia and Malaysia, and knowledge about various science, technology, and entrepreneurship projects that can be adapted to improve learning in schools in Riau (Sari, 2021).

Before conducting this activity, a deep needs analysis was carried out to ensure that the planned activities could provide maximum benefits for the participants. This analysis includes several steps consisting of identifying educational challenges in Riau, such as limited educational technology, where many schools in Riau still lack adequate technological facilities, hindering the implementation of modern learning methods. There is a lack of innovation in teaching, where the applied teaching methods tend to be conventional, lacking innovative approaches that can increase students' interest and participation. There is minimal exposure to international practices, where teachers in Riau have not had many opportunities to learn from educational practices abroad.

The Community Service Team from the Master of Pedagogy Program at the Graduate School of Universitas Lancang Kuning conducted surveys and interviews with teachers and principals at several primary and secondary schools in Riau to understand their needs and expectations related to improving education quality. Data obtained from surveys and interviews were analyzed to determine the main focus of this community service activity. The analysis results show that teachers greatly need to enhance their knowledge and skills in using educational technology and applying innovative learning methods.

This community service activity aims to enhance the insights and knowledge of teachers from Riau about the latest learning methods and educational technology, facilitate cultural exchange between Indonesia and Malaysia through cultural sharing activities, and inspire teachers in Riau to develop innovative programs in their schools by observing science, technology, and entrepreneurship showcases at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding. The selection of partner schools was based on analysis results, with Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding in Selangor, Malaysia, chosen as a partner because it has outstanding programs relevant to the needs of teachers in Riau.

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2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In recent years, international cooperation in education has gained significant attention as a means to enhance educational quality and foster cross-cultural understanding. The exchange of knowledge and practices between educators from different countries can lead to improved teaching methodologies and broadened perspectives (Han & Yin, 2016; Desimone, 2009).

Knowledge Exchange and Teacher Competency

Research indicates that the exchange of knowledge among teachers from diverse backgrounds can significantly enhance their teaching competencies and creativity. Han and Yin (2016) emphasize that exposure to different teaching methodologies encourages educators to adopt innovative practices. Similarly, Desimone (2009) argues that professional development through international collaboration leads to meaningful improvements in classroom practices.

Integration of Technology in Education

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The integration of technology in education has been shown to increase student engagement and participation. Hwang et al. (2015) and Li and Ma (2010) highlight that technology-enhanced learning environments promote active learning and motivation among students. Observations at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding demonstrated the effective use of technology, providing a practical example of its benefits in the classroom.

Cultural Exchange and International Collaboration

Cultural sharing activities are instrumental in building cross-cultural understanding and reducing prejudice. Johnson and Johnson (2009) and Merryfield (2000) suggest that cultural exchange fosters mutual respect and appreciation between nations, which is crucial in a globalized world. The cultural sharing activities in this community service project supported these findings, as teachers from both countries gained insights into each other's traditions and values.

Implementation of Educational Innovations

The success of educational innovations often depends on tangible examples and support from the broader educational community. Fullan (2001) and Rogers (2003) stress that innovations are more likely to be adopted when educators can witness their practical application. The showcase at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding provided concrete examples that inspired teachers from Riau to consider implementing similar programs in their schools.

Overall, the literature supports the notion that international collaboration and cultural exchange in education are powerful tools for professional development and educational innovation. However, ongoing support and evaluation are necessary to ensure the sustained impact of these initiatives.

3. METHOD

3.1. Activity Procedure

The method for implementing this community service activity will be carried out based on the following steps:

a) Conducting a situational analysis through surveys and interviews with teachers and principals at several primary and secondary schools in Riau to understand their needs and expectations regarding improving education quality.
b) Identifying partner problems to find solutions.
c) Planning the implementation date for May 7, 2024, at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Selangor, Malaysia.
d) Coordinating with activity participants, which include teachers from primary and secondary schools in cities and districts in Riau Province, Indonesia, and teachers from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Selangor, Malaysia.
e) Coordination and Communication: conducting initial communication with Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding to obtain approval and design the activity schedule.
f) Socializing with teachers in Riau about the goals and benefits of the activity and inviting them to participate.
g) Planning travel arrangements, including transportation, accommodation, and other logistics.
h) Administrative Preparation: managing travel documents and permits for participants.
i) Preparing an activity agenda that includes academic sharing, cultural sharing, and showcase observation.

3.2. Location and Participants

The location of this activity is Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, located in Hulu Langat, Selangor, Malaysia. The event is attended by 43 participants, consisting of 3 leaders from the Master of Pedagogy program and 40 secondary school teachers who are Master's students from the Graduate School of Universitas Lancang Kuning. The participating teachers and the school committee from SMK Dusun Nanding involved in this activity number 50 people, along with the organizing committee from SMK Dusun Nanding Malaysia, consisting of dozens of students. The participants are engaged in various academic and cultural activities to

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deepen their knowledge and enhance their skills in the field of education.The time and place of implementation are stated at the beginning of the method section. The implementation method section contains a description of the stages or steps in depicting the proposed solutions to address the issues faced by the community (partners).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4. 1. Activity Implementation Results

The community service activity was conducted to enhance the insights and knowledge of teachers from primary and secondary schools in Riau Province. This activity also aimed to establish international cooperation in education and improve the quality of learning through various sharing and observation activities. Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding in Selangor, Malaysia, was chosen as the activity location because of its excellent programs in science, technology, and entrepreneurship, which can inspire teachers in Riau.

The implementation of this community service activity, which took place on May 7, 2024, included the following:

1) Welcoming the Participants:

a) Participants arrived at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding and were welcomed by the principal and local teachers.

b) An introduction and welcome session were held with representatives from the host school and representatives from the teachers in Riau.



Picture 1. Welcome Reception at SMK Dusun Nanding Malaysia for Teachers from Riau



Picture 2. Group Photo with the Faculty of SMK Dusun Nanding and Teachers from Riau

2) Academic Sharing:

a) Presentation by teachers from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding on innovative teaching methods implemented at their school, including the use of technology in the classroom.

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b) Group discussion on challenges and solutions in implementing innovative teaching methods.
c) Presentation by teachers from Riau on the teaching methods they have applied and the results achieved.
d) Q&A session and experience sharing between teachers from both countries.

Academic sharing between the two schools has significant benefits, including enhancing the quality of learning through the exchange of knowledge and experiences between teachers and students. By sharing teaching strategies and curriculum approaches, both schools can adopt best practices that have proven effective in their respective contexts. This also opens up opportunities for collaboration in research projects and extracurricular activities that can enrich students' learning experiences. Furthermore, academic sharing can aid in the professional development of teachers by providing new and innovative insights that can be applied in the classroom. As stated by Smith and Brown (2020), "Academic exchanges between educational institutions play a crucial role in improving the quality of education by sharing knowledge and experiences that can enhance teacher performance and student learning outcomes."



Picture 3. Innovative Learning at SMK Dusun Nanding Malaysia Integrated with Technology



Picture 4. Discussion and Q&A Session with Teachers from SMK Dusun Nanding Malaysia and Teachers from Riau

3) Cultural Sharing:

a) Cultural performances by students and teachers from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, including traditional dances, music, and other arts.
b) Cultural PowerPoint presentation by teachers from Riau, featuring traditional dances, music, and cuisine of Riau.
c) Traditional food exchange session to introduce the culinary delights from each region.

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Cultural sharing between the two schools brings many benefits, especially in building understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. Through these activities, students and teachers can learn about the traditions, languages, and values of other cultures, which can broaden their perspectives and promote tolerance and respect for differences. This experience can also enrich the curriculum by incorporating broader cultural perspectives, which in turn can enhance the quality of education. Moreover, cultural sharing can facilitate sustainable international cooperation, which can positively impact students' social and academic development. As stated by Kim and Park (2018), "Cultural exchanges between educational institutions can strengthen relationships between countries and enhance cross-cultural understanding, which is essential in this era of globalization."





Picture 5 & 6. Art Performances by Students of SMK Dusun Nanding and Cultural Presentation of Riau

4) Showcase/Exhibition Observation:

a) Participants observed the science, technology, and entrepreneurship showcase/exhibition organized by the students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding.
b) Each group of students presented their projects, explaining the concepts, creation process, and benefits of the projects.
c) Teachers from Riau were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the displayed projects with the students.



Picture 7. Entrepreneurship Project by Students of SMK Dusun Nanding Malaysia

5) Discussion and Evaluation:

a) Group discussion between teachers from Riau and teachers from Dusun Nanding to discuss the results of the observation and how the projects can be adapted in their respective schools.
b) Evaluation of the activities by all participants to identify successes, challenges, and recommendations for future activities.

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The discussion and evaluation of the academic sharing, cultural sharing, and science, technology, and entrepreneurship exhibitions have several important benefits. Discussions allow participants to elaborate on ideas, share experiences, and provide deeper insights into the topics discussed. In the context of academic sharing, discussions can help teachers and students understand new concepts and methods and integrate them into everyday teaching practices. The same applies to cultural sharing, where discussions can enrich understanding of cultural diversity and promote tolerance.

Evaluation, on the other hand, serves as a tool to measure the effectiveness of the activities and identify areas that need improvement. Evaluations can be conducted through surveys, questionnaires, or structured group discussions, and the results can be used to formulate recommendations for future activities. In science, technology, and entrepreneurship exhibitions, evaluations allow students to receive constructive feedback on their projects, which can enhance the quality of their work and motivate them to continue innovating.

Overall, the discussion and evaluation of these activities encourage critical reflection and continuous development. As stated by Anderson and Krathwohl (2001), "Discussion and evaluation in an educational context play a key role in enhancing the quality of learning and providing valuable insights for professional development and educational program improvement."



Picture 8. Presentation of Souvenirs and Signing of MoU

4.2. Results and Discussion of Activity Results

This community service activity had a significant positive impact on the participants. By directly observing best practices at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, teachers from Riau were able to learn and adapt effective methods to improve the quality of education in their respective schools. Additionally, cultural exchange enriched understanding and strengthened relationships between nations. The results of this activity are as follows:

a) Increased Insight and Knowledge:

Teachers from Riau gained new knowledge about innovative teaching methods and the use of technology in education. They were inspired by the practices implemented at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding and plan to adopt some of these methods in their own schools.

b) Establishment of Cooperation:

Good relations were established between schools in Riau and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, opening up opportunities for further cooperation in the field of education.

c) Cultural Understanding:

Through cultural sharing, participants gained a deeper understanding of each country's culture, strengthening friendship and international cooperation.

The results of this community service activity can be explained in the context of improving teacher competence through knowledge exchange. Previous research shows that knowledge exchange between teachers

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from different backgrounds and countries can enhance competence and creativity in teaching (Han & Yin, 2016; Desimone, 2009). The results of this activity are in line with this research, where teachers from Riau gained new insights that can improve their teaching methods.

In the context of technology use in education, as observed by teachers from Riau, these results refer to studies conducted by Hwang et al. (2015) and Li & Ma (2010), which found that using technology in education can increase student participation and interest in the learning process. Observations at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding demonstrated effective technology application in teaching, providing concrete evidence of the benefits of technology in education.

Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation are very beneficial for teachers from Riau and teachers from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding, Malaysia. Research by Johnson & Johnson (2009) and Merryfield (2000) indicates that cultural exchange and international cooperation can broaden perspectives and reduce prejudice between nations. The cultural sharing activities in this community service reinforce these findings, with teachers from both countries learning about and appreciating each other's cultures.

This community service activity also impacts the implementation of innovative programs in schools. Research by Fullan (2001) and Rogers (2003) shows that innovations in education often succeed when there are concrete examples and support from the broader educational community. Observing the showcase at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dusun Nanding provided concrete examples for Riau teachers to develop similar programs in their schools, in line with Fullan and Rogers' findings on the importance of real examples in educational innovation.

However, to achieve more optimal results, several things need to be considered. The sustainable implementation of new methods and technologies requires ongoing support from schools and the government. Without this support, adopted innovations may not last long. Ongoing training and mentoring for teachers are needed to ensure they can effectively apply new knowledge and skills. Evaluation and adjustment: Implemented programs need to be evaluated regularly and adjusted based on feedback and results obtained.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This community service activity successfully achieved its goal of enhancing the insights and knowledge of teachers from Riau. International cooperation in the field of education has proven effective in providing tangible benefits for improving the quality of education. The conclusion of this activity is that international cooperation in education is essential for enhancing educational quality. Such activities need to be continuously implemented, involving more schools and teachers. Additionally, it is important to document and disseminate the results of this activity so that it can serve as a reference for others who wish to undertake similar activities.

The suggestions that can be given from the results of this community service activity are as follows:

a. Continuity of Activities: Activities like this need to be carried out continuously, involving more schools and teachers.
b. Documentation and Dissemination: The results and experiences of this activity need to be thoroughly documented and disseminated so that they can serve as a reference for others.
c. Program Development: Teachers in Riau are expected to develop innovative programs in their respective schools based on the experiences and knowledge gained during this activity.The conclusion section contains the achievements of the community service activities in relation to the objectives and targets of the activities in the form of a summary of the discussion results.

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