

## Advances in Community Services Research

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# Empowering Women Through Decoupage Skills and Legal Education on Consumer Protection in Creative Businesses



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ABSTRACT	
<b>Keywords:</b> decoupage; women's empowerment; legal education; consumer protection; creative enterprises.	<b>Purpose:</b> This Community Service (PkM) activity aims to empower the Padeci business group from the PKK Women's Team in Padanglampe Village by strengthening their creative skills through decoupage techniques and increasing their legal literacy in consumer protection. This program is designed to encourage the creation of skilled, creative women who can increase their family income.
<b>Conflict of Interest Statement:</b> The author(s) declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.	<b>Research Design and Methodology:</b> The implementation methods include hands-on practice in making decoupage crafts from household waste, such as used bottles and cans, legal counseling on consumer protection, and intensive communication with partners to ensure the program's sustainability. A participatory approach is used to help participants learn in an applicable and independent manner.
<b>Copyright © 2026 The Authhor(s). All rights reserved.</b>	<b>Findings and Discussion:</b> The activity increased participants' knowledge and skills in processing household waste into products of economic value through decoupage techniques. In addition, participants' understanding of the rights and obligations of business actors and consumer protection mechanisms also increased. The participants' enthusiasm showed that the program was in line with the community's needs and had potential for further development.
	<b>Implications:</b> This program provides practical benefits, including creative business opportunities that can support the household economy. From a managerial perspective, the results of these activities can serve as a basis for establishing small business groups based on PKK (Family Welfare Movement) and for encouraging further training in areas such as digital marketing and product branding.

## Introduction

Women play a strategic role in supporting family finances, especially in rural areas that still face limited access to formal employment and stable sources of income. Community empowerment, especially for women, through creative business activities has been proven to have a significant impact in reducing poverty and increasing economic independence (Indiwo, 2016). In many areas, including Padanglampe Village, socioeconomic conditions indicate that women have great potential to increase family income, but adequate skills do not match this potential. This phenomenon is evident in the lack of skills in producing marketable products (Budianto et al., 2023), weak business management knowledge, including limited access to capital, difficulties in marketing products, and limited knowledge of legal education related to consumer protection. This problem highlights the gap between

available creative business opportunities and women's ability to manage businesses professionally, independently, and sustainably. In the Padeci business group of the PKK Women's Team in Padanglampe Village, women's empowerment is crucial to developing women who are creative, skilled, and economically empowered. One relevant approach is the use of waste materials such as glass bottles and household waste to be processed into valuable products through the decoupage technique (Sari et al., 2018). The art of decoupage has been widely used to enhance product value and open new creative business opportunities for women (Maulidya et al., 2024). Based on this potential, this community service activity was designed with the theme "Women's Empowerment Through Decoupage Skills and Legal Education on Consumer Protection in Creative Businesses" to address skills gaps, legal knowledge gaps, and the need to improve women's welfare in Padanglampe Village.

Various recent studies show that decoupage training has great potential in increasing women's economic opportunities while strengthening their capacity in creative businesses. Andriani et al. (2020) and another study confirm that decoupage training can provide women with marketable creative skills, create home business opportunities, increase family income, and strengthen women's self-confidence and entrepreneurial potential. These findings are supported by Mahliza et al. (2018), who noted that such craft training provides "alternatives for women in the field of entrepreneurship," enabling them to start businesses and meet their families' economic needs. Community service studies conducted in various regions of Indonesia also show that decoupage skills enable women to turn everyday objects into high-value products (Ajisuksmo & Heni, 2023). This technique generally teaches participants to decorate items using napkin patterns to produce products with higher selling value (Wardani et al., 2023). In fact, participants can process glass bottles, plastic bags, and bamboo baskets into crafts with potential market demand (Agustina & Zubaidi, 2022). More broadly, research on skills training shows a significant impact on women's economic empowerment. Putri & Amir (2023) found that 90% of participants in their sewing training study successfully acquired new skills, thereby increasing their economic independence. Another finding from Habib & Sutopo (2024) confirms that appropriately designed training can improve participants' business management and marketing skills. Research by Hamzah & Salsabila (2024) also shows that skills-based empowerment can increase women's self-confidence, economic participation, and social status.

Although various studies and community service programs have shown the positive impact of creative skills training on women's economic empowerment, several important gaps remain unaddressed in the literature and in practice. Existing studies have focused more on improving technical skills, such as creative product manufacturing or developing women's creativity, without adequately addressing other supporting aspects that also determine business sustainability, especially legal education on consumer protection. In fact, in the context of creative businesses developing in the community, understanding the rights and obligations of business actors is very important so that women can carry out economic activities safely, in accordance with regulations, and avoid legal risks arising in the production and marketing process. In addition, most previous studies have not integrated household waste recycling strategies, such as the use of glass bottles for decoupage, that not only increase the economic value of products but also support environmental sustainability. On the other hand, the limited number of studies that specifically combine decoupage training with community-based empowerment approaches, such as PKK groups, indicates a gap that needs to be filled. Strengthening legal literacy as an element of women's empowerment in the context of creative businesses has also not been widely explored, even though this aspect is crucial to increasing women's confidence in running their businesses independently. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop a model of women's empowerment that not only improves creative skills but also strengthens legal knowledge capacity, thereby producing a more comprehensive, sustainable, and relevant impact on the conditions of women at the village level.

The novelty of this research lies in the integration of two approaches that have not been widely combined in research or in women's empowerment practices: decoupage skills training that uses household waste, and legal education on consumer protection as a foundation for the sustainability of creative businesses. Unlike previous studies that tended to focus only on improving technical or economic aspects, this research offers a more comprehensive empowerment model by including legal literacy as a strategic component, enabling women to run their businesses safely, with legal

awareness, and protected by regulations. This activity not only increases creativity and product value but also strengthens women's capacity to understand the rights and obligations of consumers and business actors, enabling them to have greater confidence in continuing their creative businesses independently. Thus, the objective of this research is to develop a model for empowering women in Padanglampe Village through decoupage training and legal education in order to improve technical skills, legal knowledge, and opportunities for sustainable entrepreneurship, while filling the empirical and theoretical gaps related to the need for more holistic and integrated empowerment of women.

## Literature Review

### *Women's Empowerment*

Women's empowerment is a multidimensional process that aims to increase women's capacity, participation, control, and independence across economic, social, political, and psychological domains, enabling them to make free and productive life choices. This concept is not only about creating economic opportunities but also about structural transformation that enables women to gain equal access to resources, education, and employment. In a global context, women's empowerment has become an important agenda for sustainable development because it has been proven to have a direct impact on economic growth, improved family welfare, and inclusive social development. Mazhar et al. (2022) emphasize that women's empowerment, especially among female entrepreneurs, or shepreneurs, is an important foundation for achieving sustainability, as women possess adaptive and innovative abilities that can strengthen household and community economic stability. In line with this, Lagrasta et al. (2024) explain that women's empowerment is closely related to the spirit of contemporary feminism, which emphasizes systemic change, including shifts in values and social structures that have constrained women's mobility in the economic and entrepreneurial spheres. In various studies, women's empowerment practices are also understood as capacity-building efforts that enable women to break free from economic dependence and gain control over decision-making within their families and social environments. In fact, Vukovic et al. (2023) show that women's empowerment in specific sectors, such as tourism, not only increases women's participation but also strengthens their identity, self-confidence, and bargaining position in their social environment. Strengthening these psychosocial aspects is an important part of empowerment because it directly influences women's courage in making decisions, developing businesses, and taking advantage of new opportunities available in their environment.

Women's empowerment is also related to increasing women's capacity to manage economic resources, make independent decisions, and overcome structural barriers that hinder their participation. Women's empowerment is often enabled by external supports such as social networks, family support, and access to financing, which help them strengthen their intentions and abilities to become entrepreneurs. This means that women's empowerment does not focus solely on technical skills but also on strengthening a supportive environment that facilitates women's sustainable economic participation. In addition, the concept of women's empowerment encompasses women's ability to develop green knowledge and innovation capabilities, as argued by Zhang et al. (2025), who contend that women can play a key role in sustainable entrepreneurship when they have access to adequate information and innovative skills. This shows that women's empowerment is evolving in a more complex direction, no longer understood simply as providing access to basic skills, but also as a process of strengthening women's innovative power and ability to adapt to changes in the economic environment. Potluri et al. (2024) even emphasize that empowered women have great potential to engage in green entrepreneurship, which not only provides economic benefits but also supports environmental sustainability. Thus, the concept of women's empowerment is a combination of personal capacity building, social transformation, and economic strengthening that are interrelated. Modern women's empowerment positions women as central actors in sustainable development, so that all supporting aspects, ranging from education and access to capital to creative skills and legal and environmental awareness, must be integrated to drive more inclusive, competitive change.

### *Decoupage Skills*

Decoupage is a decorative art technique that involves attaching patterned images, usually from tissue paper, napkins, or special paper, to the surface of an object to create an artistic visual effect of high aesthetic value. This technique has evolved into a form of creativity that combines fine art, precision, and visual engineering, resulting in more attractive, marketable handicrafts. Agustin (2022) explains that decoupage works by layering images on the surface of objects such as glass bottles, wood, or recycled materials, then combining them with glue and a final coating to achieve a three-dimensional effect and a hand-painted look. Through this process, decoupage has become a relatively easy technique to learn, enabling its adoption by various groups in society, including homemakers, MSME actors, and creative communities. Purbasari et al. (2024) emphasize that the decoupage technique has been used in various home-based creative industry training programs, especially in women's entrepreneurship training that utilizes household waste as the primary material. By utilizing waste such as glass bottles and used cans, training participants not only acquire decorative art skills, but also understand the concept of adding value to products that previously had no economic value. In the context of empowerment, decoupage also facilitates the emergence of craft innovations by using inexpensive, readily available materials, which can be turned into home-based businesses that generate additional income for women in rural and urban areas. Sinaga et al. (2024) even show that decoupage is an effective creative medium for boosting women's self-confidence because the product-making process allows them to express their creativity while acquiring new skills that are applicable and have economic value.

In addition to producing unique works of art, decoupage skills also offer an educational element, allowing individuals to understand the principles of visual design, color composition, and surface treatment techniques. Mastering basic techniques such as pattern cutting, motif adjustment, final coating, and selection of supporting materials is an important component in producing quality products. Agustin (2022) emphasizes that technical skills in decoupage must be accompanied by an understanding of the materials' characteristics to ensure durable, high-quality results. Through intensive training, participants not only acquire manual skills but also the creative thinking skills needed to develop innovation-based crafts. The decoupage training conducted by Purbasari et al. (2024) shows that women can develop products of higher economic value when provided with structured guidance from the design stage to the finishing stage. In addition, Sinaga et al. (2024) emphasize that decoupage also serves as a medium for creative therapy, which can improve women's psychological well-being, primarily by increasing their pride in the works they have successfully produced. This shows that decoupage is not only a craft technique but also adds value to the development of women's personal and social capacities. With the development of the creative industry and sustainable lifestyle trends, decoupage skills are increasingly relevant for transforming waste into functional and decorative products.

### *Legal Education*

Legal education is a systematic process to improve public understanding of legal norms, rules, and principles, enabling them to recognize, understand, and enforce their rights and obligations correctly in their daily lives (Angraeni et al., 2025). In the context of community development, legal education serves as an important means of strengthening public legal literacy, so that individuals not only know the law exists, but also understand how the law works and protects them. Legal education aims to empower the community to address unfair business practices by introducing consumer rights and available legal protections. This interpretation emphasizes that legal education serves as an instrument to improve the community's capacity to read situations, assess risks, and act in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework. In addition, legal education helps shape critical awareness, which is the ability to understand one's legal position in various situations, including when faced with potential rights violations. In the process of legal learning, the community is not only provided with technical knowledge of laws but also guided to understand the social and moral context of a rule so they can apply it appropriately. With this approach, legal education is not only informative but also transformative, as it can shift the community's mindset from passive to more active and legally aware.

Furthermore, legal education plays an important role in improving the community's ability to navigate regulatory changes, especially in the digital age, when economic transactions and

interactions are increasingly complex. Widiarty & Tehupeiori (2024) emphasize that adequate legal understanding is needed in facing the dynamics of consumer protection in the digital age, where the risks of fraud, data misuse, and harmful business practices are increasing. In this context, legal education not only conveys information about formal rules but also provides practical skills, such as identifying violations, understanding reporting mechanisms, and following dispute-resolution steps. Through legal education, the public can increase its ability to address various forms of injustice by understanding the legal instruments available to protect itself from unethical business practices. Thus, legal education acts as a bridge between the regulatory framework and society, ensuring that law is not just a written document but becomes part of everyday social practice. In addition, legal education also helps create a society that is more aware of its rights and obligations, thereby building a strong legal culture as an important foundation for good governance and consumer protection. Ultimately, legal education is a crucial instrument in creating a critical, independent, and protected society, especially for vulnerable groups who have had limited access to legal information.

### *Consumer Protection*

Consumer protection can be understood as a set of principles, regulations, and mechanisms designed to protect consumers from unfair, misleading, or exploitative business practices. In the context of modern public policy, consumer protection is not only about enforcing rules after violations occur, but also about preventive efforts to ensure transparent information, a more balanced bargaining position, and a fair market environment. Howells (2020) emphasizes that consumer protection upholds the values of fairness, transparency, and security in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by the digitization and automation of business processes. In the context of financial markets and online platforms, improving the quality of consumer protection is associated with the credibility of information received by the public, as shown by Cascino et al. (2019), who discuss how consumer protection rules increase trust in information disclosure in reward crowdfunding schemes. On the other hand, White (2020) explains that in modern markets, consumer protection cannot be separated from business competition policy, because overly concentrated market structures tend to weaken consumers' bargaining position and potentially open the door to harmful practices. Thus, consumer protection has a dual function: protecting individuals as users of goods and services, and ensuring that market mechanisms operate in a healthy and balanced manner.

In the digital economy era, the concept of consumer protection has expanded in scope as transactions have become more complex and technological innovation has advanced. Rösner et al. (2020) show that, in the European Union, strengthening consumer protection regulations in the digital realm has had a significant impact on business behavior, particularly regarding information transparency and data protection obligations. In line with this, Thorun & Diels (2020) examined the potential of digital technology for consumer policy and found that technologies such as automatic warning systems, digital labels, and application-based complaint platforms can serve as new instruments to strengthen consumers' position when dealing with business actors. However, consumer protection does not focus solely on technology and regulation; it also addresses the subjective experience of consumers, especially vulnerable groups. Hazzouri et al. (2023) show that for consumers dealing with high-risk financial products, such as short-term loans, the experience of empowerment or powerlessness is greatly influenced by the extent to which consumer protection rules actually work in practice. When regulations are merely normative, without adequate oversight mechanisms, consumers remain in a weak position even though they formally have legal rights. This condition confirms that the concept of consumer protection requires synergy among regulation, law enforcement, transparency of information, and consumer empowerment.

## **Research Design and Methodology**

The method used to implement this community program is to provide education and hands-on practice in decoupage techniques using household waste, such as cans and used bottles, which can add value to products and increase partners' income. In addition, the PkM Team will provide legal education on consumer protection in creative businesses.



The methods used in this community service activity include presentations, hands-on practice, discussions, sharing, and question-and-answer sessions related to the community service theme presented by the PkM team. Under the program agreed with the partners, a plan is needed that includes implementing activities and evaluating the Beginner Community Service (PkM) program. The design for the implementation of activities and program evaluation is as follows:

1. Activity Implementation Plan

a. Preparation where the activities to be carried out include:

- 1) Socialization to partners, namely Mrs. PKK "Padeci" of Padanglampe Village, through village officials, in this case, the Secretary of Padanglampe Village.
- 2) Appointing one partner as field coordinator to facilitate communication during the activity, in this case, the secretary of Padanglampe Village;
- 3) Meeting with partners, members of partner groups, to discuss the training program schedule and agree upon with the activity implementation team;
- 4) Conducting program socialization to partners who will participate in the targeted activities of 15-25 people;
- 5) Preparation of tools and materials for decoupage and related educational materials on legal protection.

b. Training provision:

- 1) Assistance and training where the implementation team will act as facilitators in carrying out activities created together with partners. With an introduction to materials related to decoupage skills and legal education on consumer protection in creative businesses.
- 2) The assistance and practices offered by the training implementation team to partners will be considered. Once approved, the following activities will be carried out.
- 3) Activity Evaluation: After completing the training activities from the entire program series, participants will be invited to discuss/share and ask questions to determine the extent of their knowledge.

c. The participation of partners in the overall implementation of the program is expected to enable all partners to maximize the implementation of the training results, which can provide benefits and business development for the partners in improving their skills.

## Findings and Discussion

### *Implementing Team Structure*

The structure of the Community Service Program (PkM) committee for the assisted village in this activity consists of an implementation team of two (2) people. The following is the structure for the implementation of this service activity:

**Table 1.** Implementation Team Structure

	Implementing Team	Position	Field of Expertise	Tasks in Community Service Activities
1	Hasnidar Syam, SE.,M.Si.,Ak.,CA	Chairman	Accounting	Training, Counseling, and Report Writing
2	Tri Abriana Ma'ruf, SH., MH	Member	Law	Training, Counseling, and Report Writing

### *Type of Activity, Time, and Place of Activity*

The Community Service (PkM) activity in the assisted village was carried out through material presentations and practical sessions involving the PKK Group of Ma'rang Subdistrict, Padanglampe Village, Pangkep Regency. The entire series of activities took place on Tuesday, October 16, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. WITA. The activity was held at the Padanglampe Village Office in Pangkep Regency, which served as the coordination center and training room for the participants. This activity was designed to provide participants with direct experience through a combination of

material explanations and field practice so that the empowerment objectives could be optimally achieved.

#### *Target Community Participants*

Participants in the Community Service Program (PkM) for the assisted village are the PKK Group of Padanglampe Village, Pangkep Regency. (Attachment: attendance list)

#### *Review of Achievements*

The results of this activity were benefits that Mira felt directly, namely an increase in her partners' knowledge of decoupage, a form of creativity that uses household waste, such as used cans or bottles, to create attractive products with market value. The steps in the decoupage process are as follows: prepare the medium/woven bag, special decoupage tissue, and other equipment; cut the tissue along the edge of the motif; unfold the tissue; attach the tissue to the bottle or can using glue; dry the tissue motif using a hairdryer; then reapply glue evenly on the surface of the tissue motif and dry it again with a hairdryer until dry, and the final step is to apply varnish to the surface of the tissue motif and the entire surface of the medium and then dry it (Prabawati & Zahra, 2025).

Through the training sessions, participants not only learned basic to advanced techniques for making decoupage crafts but also produced neat, attractive, and potentially marketable creative products. The hands-on activities made the participants more confident in developing these skills as a home business opportunity.

In addition to skills training, participants also gained important insights into consumer protection laws relevant to creative business activities. This material raised participants' awareness of the rights and obligations of business actors, product safety standards, and the importance of providing honest and transparent information to customers. This knowledge helped participants understand how to manage their businesses more professionally and in accordance with applicable regulations.

Overall, this activity has brought positive changes to the PKK group in Padanglampe Village. The women have not only acquired new skills, but also gained an understanding of the ethical and legal principles of doing business. This program is the first step toward forming a decoupage craftswomen's group that can be further developed into a creative village business. The impact shows that empowerment through skills and legal education can increase women's economic independence and support the sustainable development of local potential.

#### *Benefits of Community Service Activities obtained by partners and the community (outcome)*

The implementation of community service activities in Padanglampe Village has provided tangible benefits for the PKK group partners and the surrounding community. Through decoupage skills training, women have acquired new skills that can be developed into creative business opportunities, paving the way for increased family income. These skills not only enrich participants' creativity but also strengthen their confidence in producing high-quality, competitive products. In addition, consumer protection law education provides a more comprehensive understanding of business ethics, product safety, and business responsibilities. This knowledge encourages participants to conduct economic activities more professionally and in accordance with legal provisions, thereby increasing public trust in the products they produce.

From an institutional perspective, this activity strengthens the role of the PKK group as a forum for active and productive women's empowerment. The community also feels the positive impact of the presence of creative decoupage products that could become the village's economic identity. Overall, the outcome of this program is evident in increased skills, legal literacy, entrepreneurial motivation, and the formation of creative business embryos that can be further developed for the welfare of the Padanglampe Village community.

#### *Documentation of Community Service Activities*



**Figure 1.** The Head of the Community Service Team is presenting the material



**Figure 2.** The Community Service Team conducts a sharing session and discussion with participants.

### *Activity Evaluation*

The implementation of community service activities in Padanglampe Village generally went well, but several aspects need to be considered for the program's sustainability evaluation. In terms of implementation, participants' enthusiasm and participation were very high. However, time constraints meant the decoupage practice mentoring process was not yet fully optimal for participants who needed more intensive guidance. Some participants still need further training to refine their coloring and finishing techniques, so their products are more consistent and ready to compete in the market. In the legal education session, participants' understanding of the material was quite good. However, the varied educational backgrounds meant the material needed to be simplified so that all participants could follow comfortably. In addition, additional assistance is still needed to ensure that consumer protection principles are fully implemented in their business practices.

In terms of tools and materials, several participants expressed a need for a more comprehensive, affordable range so they could practice independently after the activity. Coordination with partners also showed the need for a more flexible schedule to accommodate the routines of the PKK mothers. Nevertheless, this activity made a significant initial impact, and this evaluation served as an important basis for designing follow-up programs, including business assistance, digital marketing



training, and strengthening creative business groups in Padanglampe Village, so that the activity's benefits can continue to develop sustainably.

#### *Problems and Obstacles*

During the implementation of community service activities in Padanglampe Village, several problems and obstacles arose. One of the main obstacles was participants' limited initial skills in decoupage techniques, so some needed more time to understand technical steps, such as applying glue, cutting motifs, and finishing. These differences in ability meant the mentoring process had to be more intensive and repetitive to meet the expected standards. From a managerial perspective, the activity schedule sometimes conflicted with the domestic activities of the PKK mothers, so participant attendance was not always stable, and some sessions had to be repeated so that all participants could receive the material evenly. In providing legal education, challenges arose due to differences in participants' understanding of basic legal concepts, so the presenters needed to adjust their delivery to make it easier to understand. Time constraints also hindered the provision of more in-depth case examples. Despite these obstacles, all issues were managed well through intensive communication with PKK administrators and adaptation of training methods. However, these obstacles are important considerations for planning more structured and sustainable follow-up programs to optimize the benefits of the activities.

### **Conclusion**

Research and Community Service (PkM) activities carried out in Padanglampe Village provide a comprehensive understanding of the importance of empowering women through decoupage skills and legal education related to consumer protection. The main findings show that this program can strengthen participants' capacity to create crafts with economic value and increase their understanding of the rights and obligations of business actors. In addition, this activity demonstrates the PKK group's strong interest and enthusiasm in developing creative businesses, underscoring the program's relevance to community needs and the excellent potential for developing skills- and knowledge-based businesses.

The significance of this research and activity lies in its contribution to the development of an integrative approach to women's empowerment, combining creative skills training with legal literacy strengthening. This approach offers an empowerment model that is not only oriented towards increasing technical capacity but also towards regulatory understanding, which is the foundation of business sustainability. In practical terms, this activity has managerial implications for village governments, PKK administrators, and other stakeholders, including building a more conducive creative business ecosystem by facilitating further training, access to raw materials, and marketing assistance. Scientifically, this research offers a novel approach by combining elements of creativity and legal education to address women's empowerment at the village level, a topic rarely explored in prior literature.

Despite its significant contributions, this research and activity have limitations, including a relatively short implementation period and varying levels of participants' abilities, which affected the learning process. In addition, limited access to materials and supporting facilities poses a challenge in ensuring the sustainability of independent decoupage practices. These limitations offer opportunities for further research into long-term mentoring models, technology-based creative training strategies, and the integration of digital marketing into women's groups in rural areas. Future researchers are also advised to review the quantitative economic impact, develop appropriate business models for PKK groups, and evaluate the long-term effectiveness of legal education in order to strengthen the theoretical and practical foundations of women's empowerment through creative endeavors.

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