

## Advances in Community Services Research

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# Training on Utilizing Plastic Spoons to Make Crafts to Boost Community Creativity and Income



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ABSTRACT	
<b>Keywords:</b> plastic waste utilization; plastic spoons; handicrafts; community creativity; income.	<b>Purpose:</b> This community service activity aims to improve the knowledge and skills of the Padanglampe Village community, especially the Family Empowerment and Welfare (PKK) group of mothers, in utilizing used plastic spoons to make crafts that are both useful and economically valuable. The program also aims to foster creativity and open up opportunities to increase income through plastic waste processing.
<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 approach used was a participatory method, in which the community was directly involved in all stages of the activity, from preparation to implementation. The training process included socialization, discussion, question and answer sessions, deliberation, material delivery, and hands-on practice in craft making.
<b>Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). All rights reserved.</b>	<b>Findings and Discussion:</b> Initial interviews showed that most participants still had limited knowledge about creativity and the use of plastic waste as a source of income. Through training, participants gained a new understanding of plastic spoon processing techniques and their economic potential. The enthusiasm of the participants showed a high level of interest in developing creative skills based on plastic waste.
	<b>Implications:</b> This program has practical implications for increasing community capacity in waste management and creative economic development. This training model can also be used as a reference for community empowerment programs in other regions facing similar problems.

## Introduction

Modern life today has encouraged people to seek out practical things, including when choosing items for everyday use. One of the most widely used materials is plastic. Almost everyone uses plastic products in their daily activities. Plastic has even become an important component in modern life because it has advantages such as being lightweight and strong, corrosion resistant, easy to color, and having good insulating properties. These properties make plastic difficult to replace with other materials for various applications, ranging from food packaging, household appliances, children's toys, electronics, to automotive components. However, the massive use of plastic has had a major impact on the environment. Plastic consumption in Indonesia reaches 10 kg per capita per year, so it can be predicted that the volume of plastic waste produced is also around that amount. Plastic is a material that is difficult to decompose naturally and takes up to 80 years to degrade completely. The accumulation of plastic waste causes the sun's heat to be trapped on earth, triggering an increase in

temperature and contributing to the phenomenon of global warming. In addition, the plastic production process, which still relies on petroleum, accelerates the depletion of this resource. Based on these conditions, there is an urgent need to find creative and sustainable solutions by reducing plastic use and reusing plastic waste to create useful and economically valuable items. One concrete step is to encourage the community to develop skills through workshops and training as an investment in human resource capacity building. In this context, the community of Padanglampe Village became the target of community service activities to increase their knowledge and skills in utilizing plastic spoons into useful crafts that have the potential to increase income.

Recent studies show that community training programs based on plastic waste utilization can have a significant impact on increasing creativity and the local economy. A study by Nasution et al. (2018) shows that recycling training can teach waste processing techniques, guide participants in creating marketable products, and target marginalized groups such as housewives and unemployed youth. The study also confirms that a simultaneous training approach helps reduce environmental waste and opens up entrepreneurial opportunities. These findings are reinforced by Krisnawatie et al. (2023), who found that practical workshops on processing plastic spoons into decorative elements can strengthen creative skills and create new economic opportunities. Haeruddin et al. (2023) also reported similar benefits, particularly in improving the community's ability to manage plastic waste productively. Furthermore, Syaiful & Hayati (2021) emphasized the importance of assessing local training needs as a preliminary step before program implementation. Various other studies enrich the empirical evidence: Junias Zulfahmi et al. (2024) prove that plastic recycling can be a means of increasing creativity and income for housewives, while Ayunis et al. (2024) note the impact of training on strengthening environmental awareness. Through a systematic approach starting from waste collection, technical instruction, practical workshops, to market exploration, this type of training has proven to be effective in transferring skills and creating new economic opportunities as mentioned by Nofiyanti et al. (2020) and (Nofiyanti et al., 2020). This approach is further strengthened by training oriented towards socialization of environmental impacts, craft workshops, recycling technique development, and systematic marketing guidance as described by (Nastia et al., 2020).

Although previous studies have shown the success of plastic waste management-based training programs in increasing creativity, skills, and community income, there are still significant gaps in empirical and theoretical aspects, especially regarding the local characteristics of certain communities. Most of these studies emphasize the effectiveness of training in different contexts, but there are no studies that specifically examine the social conditions, training needs, and readiness of the Padanglampe Village community as a location for community service. This gap is exacerbated by the lack of empirical data on the initial level of knowledge of the village community regarding the use of used goods, creativity, and the potential for income generation based on crafts made from plastic waste. The theoretical aspects in previous studies also tend to focus on the success of the output, such as increased creativity or reduced waste, but have not paid close attention to the dynamics of assistance, the community learning process, and the sustainability of the program after the training is complete. In addition, there has been no research that emphasizes the transformation of plastic spoon waste specifically as a training object, even though the characteristics of this material are different from other types of plastic waste and require specific processing techniques in order to produce functional and economical crafts. Thus, despite the strong theoretical foundation provided by previous research, there is still room to expand empirical understanding regarding the implementation of contextual and sustainable training in Padanglampe Village.

Based on the identification of these gaps, this study presents a novelty through the application of a training model that specifically utilizes plastic spoons as the main material for crafts, which has not been widely explored in previous studies. Another novelty lies in a truly contextual approach, which is tailored to the social and economic needs and level of readiness of the Padanglampe Village community, which has never been the location of a similar study before. This study not only assesses the final results in the form of craft products, but also examines the learning process, the dynamics of assistance, community readiness, and the potential for program sustainability after training, dimensions that have not been widely touched upon in previous studies, which tended to focus solely on ecological and economic impacts. The objective of this research is to develop community capacity

through training in processing plastic spoons into useful and economically valuable handicrafts, while also measuring the increase in creativity, skills, and income opportunities of the community after the training intervention. In addition, this study aims to produce an empowerment model that can be replicated in other communities, thereby providing empirical and theoretical contributions on how plastic waste-based training can be implemented effectively, sustainably, and in accordance with local needs. Thus, this study expands on the findings of previous studies by providing new empirical evidence in a more specific and in-depth context.

## Literature Review

### *Utilization of Plastic Waste*

Plastic waste utilization is the process of recycling used plastic waste into new products that have a function, aesthetic value, or economic value, thereby reducing the negative impact of plastic on the environment. This concept stems from the fact that plastic is a non-biodegradable material that takes a very long time to decompose naturally, causing waste to accumulate and pollute the soil, water, and human food chain. Within the framework of a circular economy, plastic waste utilization is not only viewed as an ecological effort, but also as a creative and productive process to produce useful items, such as handicrafts, household appliances, decorative products, and industrial recycled raw materials. The transformation of plastic waste into useful products is also an important strategy to improve community welfare by utilizing resources that were previously considered worthless. In line with increasingly digitized global economic behavior, the utilization of plastic waste has begun to connect with the digital economy ecosystem through digital financial access, online marketing platforms, and digital payment systems that facilitate the distribution of waste-based handicraft products. The development of inclusive digital finance, as described by Tay et al. (2022), provides new opportunities for communities to optimize the results of their creativity through broader market connectivity.

In a social and economic context, the utilization of plastic waste is also related to the community's ability to take advantage of new economic opportunities that arise through the development of digital technology and modern financial systems. The increasingly deep-rooted digital transformation enables communities to monetize recycled products through digital payment services, e-commerce platforms, and various innovative financial applications. Yue et al. (2022) emphasize that digital finance has paved the way for vulnerable groups to participate in previously inaccessible economic activities, including micro-businesses such as crafts made from plastic waste. On the other hand, increasing digital financial literacy also plays an important role. Lyons & Hanna (2021) explain that digital financial literacy helps individuals understand how to use financial instruments, manage transactions more efficiently, and take advantage of technology-based marketing opportunities. This is particularly relevant for artisans who utilize plastic waste, as the marketing of recycled products increasingly depends on the ability to utilize digital platforms. Market connectivity and access to digital payment services are also driven by increased financial inclusion, which is an important part of modern society's welfare, as explained (Kamble et al., 2024). Therefore, the utilization of plastic waste not only includes the mechanical process of waste processing, but also connectivity with the digital economy system, which can expand marketing reach and significantly increase added value.

Furthermore, the utilization of plastic waste can also be viewed from the perspective of capacity building and welfare improvement through digital technology support. Seldal & Nyhus (2022) emphasize that the financial vulnerability of communities can be reduced when they have better access to digital financial technology. This is particularly relevant for small businesses that process plastic waste, as the income generated from the sale of handicraft products can be managed more effectively through digital financial systems, including digital wallets, mobile banking, and other payment platforms. At the same time, the utilization of plastic waste is also linked to regional economic growth dynamics, given that fintech and digital innovation have been proven to contribute to the economic growth of developing countries (Ngong et al., 2024). Thus, plastic waste processing activities are no longer seen as merely an environmental activity, but also as part of a larger economic ecosystem that enables communities to participate in the digital economy. In fact, the digitization of marketing allows local artisans to enter national and global markets, providing additional incentives

to continue developing creativity and innovation in the utilization of plastic waste. In line with this, financial literacy, access to digital payments, and the ability to use technological devices are important supporting factors for the successful utilization of plastic waste as an alternative source of income. With the integration of plastic waste processing and advances in digital technology, communities can increase production capacity, expand markets, strengthen household economic stability, and make recycling a part of their sustainable development strategy.

### *Community Creativity*

Community creativity can be understood as the collective ability of a community to generate new ideas, practices, and works that are relevant to the social, cultural, and economic needs of that community. This creativity does not only emerge from individuals, but is also formed through social interaction, the availability of local resources, and the process of solving problems faced together. In recent studies, creativity is seen as a social asset that has strategic value for community sustainability. Oppert et al. (2023) explain that creativity has universal value that goes beyond mere artistic ability, because creativity functions as capital that drives social innovation and adaptive responses to environmental change. This view emphasizes that the creative potential of the community can be the foundation for the development of community-based productive activities, especially when creativity is understood as a process that can be cultivated through education, experience, and collaboration. In the context of the community, creativity often arises from the need to overcome limitations; for example, when communities develop local solutions through innovative approaches to environmental, economic, and social issues. Haraldseid (2019) emphasizes that social creativity is formed through the process of place-making, which is when communities create new value from the spaces and resources they have. This shows that community creativity is a social, situational, and contextual phenomenon.

Community creativity has a strong social dimension, because the creative process does not only occur individually, but also through collective practices that utilize social relationships, local culture, and community dynamics. In active communities, creativity can develop through collaboration between members, the exchange of ideas, and the use of social capital to create new opportunities. Haraldseid (2019) argues that creativity in communities often emerges when community members seek to reshape their living spaces to be more meaningful and productive. This perspective shows that creativity does not always depend on large material resources, but on the community's ability to imagine new functions for the assets they have—whether physical spaces, traditions, or objects that were previously considered worthless. Creativity can also grow through internal community encouragement, especially when they face social or economic challenges that demand innovation. In the Indonesian context, creativity often arises from local potential combined with entrepreneurial spirit. Haraldseid (2019) shows that youth creativity in communities can flourish when they have space to experiment and adequate social support, especially in encouraging productive activities based on culture or local resources. Thus, community creativity is a process that involves interaction, collective experience, and reinterpretation of the potential of the surrounding environment.

Community creativity is not only important as a form of social expression, but also has the potential to drive economic change and strengthen community resilience. When creativity is directed towards productive activities, communities can generate innovations that have a direct impact on improving welfare, such as the development of crafts, cultural products, or simple technology-based solutions. Oppert (2023) asserts that creativity has practical value that can be measured through its contribution to economic and social sustainability, especially when creativity becomes a tool for solving community problems. This understanding shows that community creativity is not merely the ability to produce aesthetic works, but also includes adaptive skills that enable communities to respond to change in constructive ways. Meanwhile, Suryani's (2022) findings on youth creativity show that creativity can be a means of empowerment when communities are able to utilize their collective potential to create new value. Creativity can also develop through informal learning processes, community workshops, and practice-based activities that encourage the transfer of skills. Creative issues that arise from communities are often rooted in real needs, so that the resulting innovations are more easily accepted and implemented.

### *Community Income*

Household income can be defined as the total economic receipts earned by individuals or households from various sources, both formal and informal, which are then used to meet their needs and improve their social welfare. In development studies, community income is not only viewed as a measure of economic capacity, but also as an important indicator that describes the quality of life, access to opportunities, and social stability of a community. Household income is greatly influenced by access to financial services, especially for rural communities that face limitations in infrastructure and employment opportunities. This perspective shows that community income is a multidimensional concept closely related to the local economic structure and distribution of opportunities. Aragón & Rud (2013), through their research on local communities in Peru, show that economic activities that utilize regional resources can significantly affect community income levels, both positively and negatively. Thus, community income is understood as the result of interactions between economic, social, and environmental factors that influence households' ability to generate stable income. A comprehensive understanding of this concept is important because community income is not merely a financial figure, but rather a reflection of the economic resilience of communities in the face of modern development dynamics.

Community income is greatly influenced by local economic characteristics, the level of entrepreneurship, the availability of employment, and the strength of social capital within the community. Acs et al. (2018) assert that a community's income level is closely related to the entrepreneurial ecosystem that has developed in the area, as entrepreneurial activities can create new job opportunities and strengthen the community's economic structure. In addition, strong social relationships have also been proven to play a role in increasing household income, with social capital contributing to increased income through information networks, collaboration, and social support within the community. In the context of developing countries, the contribution of the informal sector cannot be ignored. The informal sector is an important source of income for low-income communities, especially when access to formal employment is still limited. In Indonesia itself, strengthening micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is one of the main strategies for increasing community income. Athasani et al (2025) in their research emphasize that empowering MSMEs can contribute directly to increasing community income because MSMEs are inclusive and closely aligned with local needs. These findings show that community income is a complex phenomenon influenced by various interrelated social and economic aspects.

In addition to being influenced by the local economic structure and entrepreneurial activities, community income also depends on the community's ability to utilize existing resources productively. Empowering rural communities through the utilization of local potential can significantly increase income, especially when communities are encouraged to develop businesses based on natural resources, traditional skills, or local innovations that have economic value (Wahib & Susanto, 2024). This shows that increasing community income does not always require large investments, but rather the right strategy in utilizing existing local strengths. On the other hand, empowering women through small businesses can substantially increase family income, especially when women are given access to training and business support (Rahmadi et al., 2023). These findings reinforce that community income can grow when all social groups are involved in productive economic activities. Community income is also related to opportunities, such as access to technology, education, and financing, which can expand income-generating potential. Thus, the concept of community income not only describes the size of economic receipts but also the community's capacity to take advantage of opportunities, access resources, and adapt to socioeconomic changes.

## **Research Design and Methodology**

The methods used in implementing this community service program are as follows:

1. Lecture Method. This method is used to provide knowledge and understanding of the creative economy and entrepreneurship through lectures. It provides an overview of the importance of entrepreneurship and explains the forms, important roles, and potential of the creative economy.
2. Demonstration method. This method is used in the process of providing examples in each training session to make it easier for participants to understand the material presented.



3. Discussion. Training participants are given the opportunity to discuss issues related to the creative economy and entrepreneurship development, as well as to communicate with each other during the training, thereby facilitating two-way communication between the presenters and participants.
4. Questionnaire. Before the material was presented, participants were given a questionnaire as a pre-test to assess their knowledge of the material. A post-test was then administered to provide feedback to the community service team.
5. The observation method was used to observe the abilities and activities of the participants during the training process.

Therefore, a plan covering the implementation of activities and program evaluation is required. The plan for the implementation of activities and program evaluation is as follows:

1. Activity Implementation Plan
  - a. Preparation: activities carried out consist of:
    1. Socialization to partners about the community service program to be implemented.
    2. Meeting with partners to discuss the training program schedule and agreed upon with the implementation team;
    3. Socialize the program to partners who will participate in the activity, namely 15-25 people.
    4. Preparation and compilation of training materials.
  - b. Training provision:
    1. Assistance/training where the implementation team acts as a guide in carrying out activities developed jointly with partners.
    2. Assistance and guidance offered by the implementation team to partners for consideration. If the partners agree, the next stage of activities will be carried out.
    3. Activity Evaluation: After completing all activities in the program, participants will be evaluated.
    4. At the end of the community service program, participants individually learned how to use plastic spoons to make various crafts.

## Findings and Discussion

### *Implementing Team Structure*

The structure of the organizing committee for this activity was arranged by the implementation team. The following is the structure for the implementation of this community service activity:

**Table 1. Implementation Team Structure**

No.	Implementing Team	Position	Field of Expertise	Tasks in Activities
1	Musliha Shaleh, SE., M.Ak., Ak., CA	Chairman	Accounting	Training
2	Munawir Nasir, SE., MM	Member	Management	Training

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

This community service activity was carried out with the involvement of the PKK group and the Padanglampe Village community as the main participants. The entire series of activities began with a socialization session to provide an understanding of the importance of processing waste, especially plastic spoons, into craft products that have practical and economic value. After that, participants received materials explaining the basic concepts, benefits, and examples of the application of plastic waste utilization in everyday life. The activity then continued with practical training, where participants were directly guided in processing plastic spoons into various forms of handicrafts.

Through this activity, the community not only gained new knowledge but also creative skills that can be further developed to increase family income.

The training was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. WITA. The activity took place in Padanglampe Village, Ma'rang District, Pangkep Regency. The location was chosen based on the community's real need for education and assistance in plastic waste management and enhancing local creativity. The conducive atmosphere of the village supported the effective implementation of the activity, allowing participants to follow each stage of the training well and practice the skills they acquired during the activity.

#### *Target Community Participants*

The participants in this Community Service activity were the community of Padanglampe Village, Ma'rang District, Pangkep Regency, and the number of training participants who attended was 22 people.

#### *Review of Achievements*

- Increased understanding and awareness among participants about the importance of knowledge regarding the use of recycled items such as plastic spoons.
- Increasing knowledge in terms of developing creativity.
- Increasing public knowledge in terms of raising income.
- Increased knowledge to produce productive things.

The community's feedback regarding this community service activity was that it was very beneficial for them and they hoped that such activities would continue so that their understanding, knowledge, and insight could increase, thereby improving their welfare.

#### *Benefits Activities Community Service obtained by Partners and the Community*

The benefits gained by partners and the community from these community service activities are:

1. Increased knowledge among partners and the community about the use of goods made from plastic waste.
2. Increased knowledge among partners and the community in enhancing creativity.
3. Partners and the community now have a better understanding of how to take advantage of business opportunities by making crafts from plastic spoons.
4. Partners and communities are able to increase their income significantly.

#### *Photo Documentation of Community Service Activities*



**Figure 1.** Providing training materials to participants



**Figure 2.** Practice of Making Crafts from Plastic Spoons



**Figure 3.** Handicrafts made by participants

### *Activity Evaluation*

This community service program began with a meeting between the team and their partners to provide information about the community service activities that will be carried out in Padanglampe Village, Ma'rang District, Pangkep Regency. During this meeting, the team discussed the implementation of the activities and then discussed the plan for the implementation stages, such as the schedule and location. This community service activity included providing training material on the use of plastic spoons to make crafts to increase the creativity and income of the Padanglampe village community.

This community service activity provided information on the use of plastic spoon waste to make handicrafts by the community service team, which was attended by the village community. The results achieved from this community service activity were an increase in the community's



understanding and knowledge of the importance of utilizing plastic spoon waste to enhance creativity and increase income.

#### *Problems and Obstacles*

The community still lacks knowledge about waste utilization, as they do not have sufficient and accurate knowledge about how to utilize used items that can be turned into crafts to produce items of economic value, and they do not sufficiently utilize used items to increase their income. Therefore, it is hoped that through this activity, the community in Padanglampe Village will be able to learn and understand how to utilize waste from used items to increase their creativity and income.

The obstacles in this activity are that not all people understand the utilization of waste due to their lack of knowledge, and they also do not know how to develop their creativity to increase their income and manage their economy well.

### **Conclusion**

This research and community service activity aims to provide the community of Padanglampe Village with the understanding and skills to utilize plastic spoons to create crafts that have both practical and economic value. Overall, the results of the activity show that training, which began with the delivery of material, technical guidance, and hands-on practice, was able to increase the community's knowledge of plastic waste management while fostering creativity in producing handicrafts. In addition to providing new insights into the importance of reducing plastic waste, this activity also introduced alternative uses for used items as opportunities to increase income. The enthusiasm of the participants and the positive response from the community confirmed that this activity was relevant to local needs and had the potential for further development.

In terms of scientific and practical contributions, this study shows that community empowerment efforts through training based on the utilization of domestic waste can be an innovative and relevant approach to enhancing community creativity and expanding household economic opportunities. The originality of the study lies in its specific focus on the use of plastic spoons—a type of waste that is often overlooked—in the local context of Padanglampe Village, thus providing a new perspective on how simple materials can be processed into valuable products. Practically, this training implies that village governments, empowerment institutions, and community groups can adopt similar training models to strengthen the environment-based creative economy. Managerially, this activity shows that structured mentoring, systematic provision of materials, and sustained communication are important factors in ensuring community capacity building.

The limitations of this study lie in the relatively limited scope of participants to one village and the lack of long-term observation of changes in community knowledge, creativity, and income after the activity took place. In addition, the activity did not quantitatively measure the economic impact of the handicraft products produced, leaving room for further exploration. Based on these limitations, future research should expand the location and number of participants, develop more comprehensive instruments for measuring creativity and income growth, and conduct longitudinal studies to assess the sustainability of the program's impact. Future researchers can also explore marketing strategies, business models, or simple technological interventions to support the successful utilization of plastic waste in the development of the community's creative economy.

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