

IMPLEMENTING ECO PRINT IN MAKING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BATIK BY DWP ASAHAN REGENCY

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Abstract: Community service-themed events Applying Eco Print in Making Eco-Friendly Batik in the midst of the Dharma Wanita Persada (DWP) monthly routine activity of the PUPR Office of Asahan Regency. The monthly routine meetings that have been held by DWP members so far have been limited to routine activities. There has never been empowerment of members through skill improvement to produce products that have economic value. This prompted the head of the DWP of the PUPR Service to decide to make activities that have more economic value in order to improve the welfare of DWP members. This activity lasts for one day using the community education method through lectures, discussions and questions and answers as well as the practice of making eco prints. Attended by as many as 25 participants Dharma Wanita and the STMIK Royal Lecturer Team. The purpose of this activity is to provide new knowledge and insights to participants on how to use simple materials that are environmentally friendly around us which can be used as creative endeavors during the pandemic. The implementation of the activity is divided into two sessions; The first is an exposure session about the meaning and benefits of eco print, the materials and tools used and the techniques/methods for making eco prints. The second session is practice. Of the two methods of making eco prints, the steam/steam method was chosen to be practiced directly by the women of the DWP of the PUPR Office of Asahan Regency. This activity went well and got a good response from the participants, this can be seen from the activeness of the participants during the activity. The result is an increase in participants' knowledge and skills.

Keywords: eco print; pounding; steaming

Abstrak: Ditengah kegiatan rutin bulanan Darmawanita Persada (DWP) Dinas PUPR kabupaten Asahan yang telah dilakukan anggota DWP selama ini hanya terbatas pada kegiatan yang bersifat rutinitas biasa dan pengajian. Belum pernah dilakukan pemberdayaan anggota melalui peningkatan ketrampilan untuk menghasilkan produk yang bernilai ekonomis. Hal ini yang mendorong ketua DWP Dinas PUPR memutuskan untuk membuat kegiatan yang lebih bernilai ekonomis guna meningkatkan kesejahteraan anggota DWP. Metode dalam kegiatan ini yaitu pendidikan masyarakat melalui kegiatan ceramah, diskusi dan tanya jawab serta praktek pembuatan eco print. peserta dalam kegiatan ini adalah ibu-ibu darmawanita yang dihadiri sebanyak 25 orang dan Tim dosen STMIK Royal. Tujuan dari kegiatan ini memberikan pengetahuan dan wawasan baru kepada peserta bagaimana memanfaatkan bahan-bahan yang sederhana ramah lingkungan disekitar kita yang bisa dijadikan sebagai usaha kreatif dimasa pandemi. Pelaksanaan kegiatan terbagi dalam dua sesi; pertama sesi paparan tentang pengertian, dan manfaat dari eco print, bahan dan alat yang digunakan serta tehnik/metode pembuatan eco print. Sesi kedua adalah praktek pembuatan eco print. Kegiatan ini berjalan baik dan mendapatkan respon yang baik dari peserta, hal ini dilihat dari keaktifan peserta selama berlangsungnya kegiatan. Hasilnya adalah peningkatan pengetahuan dan keahlian peserta.

Kata kunci: eco print; pounding; steaming



INTRODUCTION

There are various ways to make motifs on fabrics, one of which is the eco print technique that utilizes materials from the natural environment. Eco print is a technique of giving colors and patterns (motifs) to fabrics, leather, or other materials using raw materials (Hastawan, Pradita, Nafisah, & Piliangsani, 2020). Natural materials commonly used in eco prints come from plants that include various types of leaves, flowers, wood, or other plant parts with distinctive patterns and colors. According to several studies, teak leaves are the best for natural dyeing used on fabrics.

Why is the eco print technique so popular nowadays? In addition to using natural materials that are widely available around us, this technique also positively impacts the handling of liquid waste, especially in garment production, which often uses chemical dyes. (Enrico, 2019). This simple technique is easy to do at home at a low cost and does not require a machine. Very appropriate for homemakers who desire to develop creativity through creative efforts. In addition to being environmentally friendly, this eco print technique has been widely known by the public. It has considerable potential to be developed into products of economic value that can increase the value of welfare for the community. (Genesiska, Kamardiani, Dewi, Rokhim, & Fitriastuti, 2020).

Applying Eco print in making eco-friendly batik is the theme chosen by the STMIK Royal Lecturer Team for Community Service activities in the Darma Wanita Persada (DWP) Public Service Office of Asahan Regency. The results of the initial meeting of the lecturer team with the chairman of the

DWP of the PUPR Office, it was agreed that for the September meeting, one of the activities that will be carried out is improving the skills of members to support the development of home businesses that can improve family welfare. The regular monthly lottery club activities that DWP women have carried out have been limited to regular meetings and recitations without any exercises that empower members through skill development to produce economic value products. Therefore, implementing eco print in making environmentally friendly batik was chosen as one of the skills improvement activities for members at the regular DWP meeting in September.

Eco print is currently being introduced to the public, apart from the simple manufacturing technique. It does not require a particular machine because the material comes from the surrounding environment, making it easy to get it. First, prepare materials such as cloth and leaves used as motifs. Second, printing the motif (transfer of color and shape according to the selected leaf) has several ways to carry out the first printing process using the pounding method. The second is boiled or steamed, and the third is fixation. (Sedjati & Sari, 2019). This eco print technique is one of the current supporters of confusion with a high selling value. (Asmara, 2020). Exploration of eco print techniques can also be considered for the eco-friendly textile industry in the future. (Herlina, Dartono, & Setyawan, 2018).

Two years of the Covid-19 Pandemic have changed the lives of all humans in this hemisphere. And the ones who feel the most impact are mothers. The problem that arises today is how to increase the ability and knowledge of

homemakers during a pandemic where everyone is asked to stay at home more, work from home and reduce non-essential activities outside the home. Therefore, the basis for providing eco-print training is making mothers more creative under challenging times by taking the initiative to fill a lot of time at home with festive activities, namely maximizing their skills.

The purpose of this community service activity is first to introduce batik techniques using the eco-print method that is environmentally friendly, secondly to provide batik/drawing skills on fabrics using materials that are close to us, and thirdly to open up the insight of DWP women from the PUPR Office of Asahan Regency on how to become mothers. It is essential to introduce this eco print technique, primarily to dharmawomen, because this batik technique does not require a lot of money and does not require a particular machine. Creative under challenging times.



Figure 1. Dharma Wanita PUPR Office of Asahan Regency

With this intention, the DWP women from the PUPR Service, in collaboration with the STMIK Royal Lecturer Team, carried out capacity-building activities for DWP women, hoping that the results could be developed into creative businesses from home.

METHOD

This activity was attended by 25 members of the DWP PUPR Office of Asahan Regency. The method used in this community service activity is the Community Education Method. The activity stage begins with an opening of approximately thirty minutes, using the lecture method, brainstorming, and in-house training or direct practice of making eco prints. The lecture method is used to explain eco print material (understanding, benefits, materials used, and the process of making eco print on fabric) through powerpoint slide media. Then continued with in-house training activities, namely practicing directly in the room for material exposure by a team of lecturers and the practice of making eco prints. The method used is believed to quickly understand the material to the women of the DWP of the PUPR Office of the Asahan district. The last session was the closing of activities by the chairman of the DWP of the PUPR Service.

DISCUSSION

The implementation of the activity begins with bookkeeping by the chairman of the DWP PUPR Office of Asahan Regency. Then continued with a material presentation by the Lecturer Team. Materials for community service activities include the meaning of eco print, benefits, materials used, and the process of making eco prints on fabrics. He also explained the impact of dyeing activities on fabrics using this technique on the surrounding environment and the use of tools and materials needed to carry out the dyeing process. A hands-on practice session on fabric coloring was

also carried out using the eco print method in this activity.

The first material that describes the dyeing technique on fabrics uses the eco print method. On this occasion, it was also conveyed that mothers need to have insight and skills, especially during the current pandemic where everyone must be able to take advantage of situations and conditions to be more creative in utilizing anything around the house where we live something of economic value.

The second material was about the introduction of materials and tools used, including cloth, which had been prepared in advance by the women of the PUPR DWP of Asahan district, the leaves that were chosen to be used as the primary materials for eco prints were taken from around the PUPR office. The natural materials used in making eco prints are the hallmark of this method. In addition to being environmentally friendly, the leaves can also characterize the region so that the patterns made later can reflect the richness of local culture. (Saptutyningsih & Kamiel, 2019).

The third material is the manufacturing process by beating/pounding and steaming. The first is the pounding technique; the materials and tools needed are cloth, water, alum, and soda ash. Water, alum, and soda ash are cooked until boiling. Then the fabric is soaked in the water for about one night. After the cloth is dried, the leaves are arranged according to the desired motif and then beaten.



Figure 2. How to Arrange the Foliage

The fixation stage in the pounding method is done by soaking the cloth that has been prepared in the previous step into a solution of lime, Tanjung, and alum. After that, the fabric is washed with clean water. The second is making an eco print by steaming/steaming. The materials and tools used are cloth, water, alum, vinegar, and steamer. There is a slight difference from the previous method, namely in the cloth soaking technique, wherein the steam/steam technique used is only alum, not soda ash. Then the cloth is soaked for about an hour. In figure 2, the selected leaves are then soaked in vinegar water to produce a good color. After the fabric is dried, the leaves are arranged according to the desired motif. And the last step is to steam the cloth that has been arranged with leaves, and then the fabric is wrapped with plastic for two to four hours.



Figure 3. Steaming Process



Figure 3. Eco print results

CONCLUSION

Activities were carried out well and smoothly as planned. After the Community Service activities were carried out, participants were able to independently practice the eco print technique for creativity that has economic value, where this activity received a positive reaction for the DWP women of the PUPR Office of Asahan Regency, one of which was to provide batik skills on cloth using natural materials that are close to with us, without using chemical dyes. And this activity adds new knowledge for the DWP of the PUPR Office of Asahan Regency to fill out monthly routine activities.

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