

## **Sewing Training As A Means Of Developing The Batik Industry And Improving The Welfare Of The Kungkai Community**

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### **Abstrak**

Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat ini dilaksanakan di Desa Kungkai, berupa Pelatihan Menjahit pakaian batik untuk meningkatkan keterampilan dan ekonomi masyarakat. Pengabdian ini merupakan lanjutan dari pelatihan sebelumnya tentang pengolahan kain batik, dimana peserta telah diajarkan tentang teknik membatik dan desain batik. Dalam pelatihan ini, 15 orang peserta dibagi menjadi 5 kelompok, dengan fokus pada pembuatan pakaian batik wanita dan pakaian batik pria. Metode pelatihan dilakukan dengan cara praktek langsung, dimana masing-masing kelompok diajarkan untuk menjahit pakaian batik sesuai dengan arahan instruktur. Hasil pengabdian ini diharapkan dapat meningkatkan keterampilan masyarakat dalam menjahit pakaian batik, sehingga dapat meningkatkan pendapatan dan ekonomi masyarakat Desa Kungkai, serta meningkatkan nilai jual produk batik lokal.

Kata Kunci: Desa Kungkai, Menjahit

### **Abstract**

This Community Service was carried out in Kungkai Village, in the form of a batik clothing sewing training to improve the skills and economy of the community. This service is a continuation of the previous training on batik cloth processing, where participants have been taught about batik techniques and batik designs. In this training, 15 participants were divided into 5 groups, with a focus on making women's batik clothing and men's batik clothing. The training method was carried out through direct practice, where each group was taught to sew batik clothing according to the instructor's instructions. The results of this service are expected to improve the community's skills in sewing batik clothing, thereby increasing the income and economy of the Kungkai Village community, as well as increasing the selling value of local batik products.

Keywords: Desa Kungkai, Menjahit

## **INTRODUCTION**

Jambi is one of the provinces producing batik in Indonesia. Jambi batik is characterized by motifs inspired by the surrounding nature and the daily lives of the Jambi people. These motifs often depict local flora and fauna, such as flowers, leaves, birds, and other animals (Yuniarti, 2015). One of the batik-producing areas in Jambi Province is Merangin Regency, specifically in Kungkai Village (Batik Hafsyah). Kungkai Village is located in Bangko District, Merangin Regency. Kungkai Village is located 6 km from Bangko Market.

The Batik Center in Kungkai is one of the renowned batik production centers in the Jambi region. Kungkai Batik has produced a variety of unique and high-quality batik motifs and designs. Batik Hafsyah generally produces hand-drawn batik. Hand-drawn batik is a batik-making technique that involves directly painting on a piece of white cloth (Saraswati & Pamungkas, 2016). However, to increase the selling value of batik products, efforts are needed to process them into ready-to-wear garments. Therefore, garment-making skills are needed to transform batik fabric into products that are more valuable and attractive to consumers. With garment-making skills, batik products can be processed into various types of clothing, such as dresses, shirts, trousers, and more, which can increase their selling value.

Furthermore, garment-making skills can also help improve the quality of batik products, enabling them to compete with other products in the market. However, acquiring garment-making skills requires intensive

training and practice. Therefore, a garment-making training program is needed to improve the skills of the community, especially batik entrepreneurs, in processing batik into ready-to-wear garments. This is expected to increase batik products' added value, increase community income, and enhance the image and reputation of the Kungkai Batik Center as one of the centers of quality batik production in the Jambi region.

## IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

The implementation methods implemented for partners to improve welfare and develop the batik industry are through education, outreach, training, and mentoring, including: Introduction to sewing machines and sewing tools. Teaching how to use a sewing machine, how to make clothing patterns, attach buttons, make pockets and collars, and teach sewing techniques.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Activity Implementation

This community service program was implemented over five months, from preparation and surveys to field implementation (in Kungkai village). The activities in Kungkai village began with an introduction to sewing machines and equipment, followed by hands-on practice in pattern-making and sewing. Fifteen women from Kungkai village participated in this activity, divided into five groups. Each group was tasked with making clothing. The activity began with an introduction to sewing machines and equipment, as well as how to use them. The second activity taught how to use sewing machines and sewing techniques. Then, they were taught how to make clothing patterns. Finally, they were taught how to make clothing and were tasked with making the garments. Each of these stages lasted 30 days, with the first stage lasting 7 days.

#### A. Introduction to Sewing Machines and Sewing Eq



Figure 1. Sewing tools and equipment

Besides those in Figure 1, there are other sewing tools with different functions. Here are 16 sewing tools and their functions that are important to know, especially for beginner tailors:

1. Costume Book: To draw patterns for garments to be sewn.
2. Thimble: To protect your fingers when pushing the sewing needle to prevent pain and injury.
3. Sewing Chalk: To mark lines or create patterns on fabric for sewing.
4. Overlock Machine: To help create stronger, neater, and more durable stitches on garment edges.
5. Embroidery Machine: To help create embroidered accents on fabric or clothing.
6. Rivet: To help remove misplaced stitches.
7. Needle Threader: To help thread difficult-to-thread needles.
8. Pin Cushion: To hold various needles so they don't get lost or scattered.
9. Point Presser: To help open seams with pointed, sharp, or angled edges before turning the garment inside out.
10. Measuring Tape: To measure the body and create a reference for creating clothing patterns.
11. Red and Blue Pencils: To create clothing patterns and also to mark the front and back of clothing.
12. Doorslag Paper: To make copies of clothing patterns.
13. Sewing Carbon Paper: To mark fabric of medium thickness.
14. Fabric Scissors: To cut fabric according to patterns and measurements. Fabric scissors come in several types: hard scissors, duck scissors, zigzag scissors, embroidery scissors, thread scissors, and electric scissors.
15. Rader: This tool is used to make stitching marks according to previously created patterns. Raders come in several types with different functions, including plain raders and serrated raders.
16. Veterban: Its function is to mark the location of certain parts of clothing, such as the waist, body, elbows, and others.

## B. Sewing Machine Use and Sewing Techniques

To use a sewing machine, initial preparation includes correctly threading the needle, upper thread, and bobbin (lower thread), then adjusting the thread tension and stitch length. Afterward, place the fabric under the presser foot, gently depress the foot pedal while guiding the fabric, and finish by tying a knot at the end of the stitch. The key is precision in threading and practicing controlling the speed and direction of the stitch to ensure neat results.

### 1. Machine Preparation

- Thread the Needle: Loosen the screw, insert the base of the needle until it stops, then tighten it again.
- Thread the Bobbin (Lower Thread): Wind the thread around the small bobbin, insert it into the bobbin case, then insert the bobbin case into the bottom of the machine until it clicks.
- Thread the Upper Thread: Wind the thread from the bobbin through the thread bar, clamp it in the tension disc, and insert it into the needle eye from the front (or according to the machine's instructions).
- Pull the Lower Thread: Turn the handwheel toward you until the needle goes down and then up again, then pull the lower thread up with the upper thread.
- Adjust the Thread Tension: For beginners, try setting the tension number at 3-4; a good stitch will be made when the upper and lower threads meet in the center of the fabric.

### 2. Start Sewing

- Position the Fabric: Raise the presser foot, place the fabric underneath, and lower the presser foot.
- Initial Sewing: Turn the handwheel to lower the needle into the fabric. Slowly depress the foot pedal while guiding the fabric along the desired line.
- Speed & Direction Control: Use the foot pedal to control the speed and your hand to guide the fabric. Turn the handwheel if necessary to reverse the direction of the stitch.
- Finish Stitching: When finished, raise the presser foot, pull the fabric back, leaving about 15 cm of thread, and then cut the thread.

### 3. Finishing

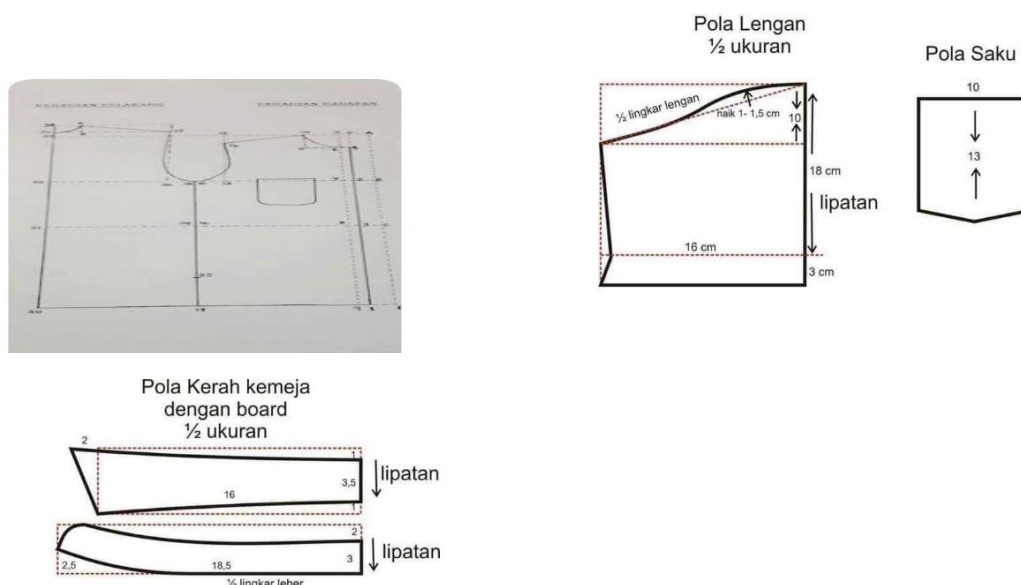
- Knot: Sew several steps in the same place or make a manual knot to secure the stitch so it doesn't come undone.
- Cut the Thread: Cut the thread evenly, not too close to the fabric.

The sewing techniques taught in this community service include:

- Straight Stitch Technique: to create straight and neat stitches on garment parts such as the sides, bottom, and sleeves.
- Zig-Zag Stitch Technique: to create elastic and flexible stitches on garment parts such as the waist and neck.
- Overlock Stitch Technique: to create neat, unraveling stitches on garment parts such as the sides and bottom.
- Pattern Making Technique: to create clothing patterns that match the desired size and design.
- Decorating Technique: to create embellishments on garments such as buttons, embroidery, and others.

In this community service, participants are also taught how to use a sewing machine, choose the appropriate thread and needle, and how to fix sewing errors.

## C. Making Clothing Patterns



**Figure 2. Clothing Pattern**



#### Evaluation of Activity Implementation

This community service program included three types of activities: 1) Introduction to sewing machines and equipment; 2) Sewing machine usage and sewing techniques; 3) Patternmaking; and 4) Sewing. The program proceeded well and was attended by 100% of the participants. Assessments were conducted during the program by observing the number of group members present, testing understanding, and observing group members' work methods, using indicators such as work plans, work process implementation, time efficiency, and output. The program was conducted openly and interspersed with discussions and questions and answers. The training was well-conducted, as reflected in the increased understanding of the students' skills. The assessment of the 15 participants in the sewing training and mentoring program revealed that five demonstrated excellent pattern-making skills, particularly for men's batik shirts, and three demonstrated agility in using the sewing machine. The results of this activity showed that five participants' sewing progressed rapidly and smoothly.

#### CONCLUSION

Community service activities have provided the Kungkai community, through women, with the skills to develop the batik industry, particularly by increasing its sales value and improving the welfare of the community. These community service activities have produced a group capable of designing patterns and sewing clothing quickly and smoothly. Community service activities have provided the Kungkai community, through women, with the skills to develop the batik industry, particularly by increasing its sales value and improving the welfare of the community. These community service activities have produced a group capable of designing patterns and sewing clothing quickly and smoothly.

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