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## The Family as a Source of Aspiration for Family Members

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**Abstract:** *Family plays a strategic role as a source of aspiration for its members in shaping human resource quality and sustainable social development. However, various challenges remain, including limited understanding of the importance of emotional support, harmonious communication, and educational roles within the family. This community service activity aims to enhance public awareness and understanding of the family's role as a source of aspiration for family members in Rimba Sekampung Village, Dumai City. A participatory approach was employed through socialization activities, interactive presentations, group discussions, and the development of informational media. The results indicate an improvement in community awareness and understanding of the importance of harmonious families, reflected in initial changes in attitudes and behaviors, increased support for family members' education, and the emergence of community leaders and youth as local change agents. This activity also fostered collective awareness of the family's role in human resource development, contributing to the potential for sustainable social transformation.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The family is the smallest social unit that plays a strategic role in shaping the character, values, and aspirations of its members. In the context of social development, the family functions not only as a place for fulfilling basic needs but also as the primary source for the formation of expectations, life goals, and individual motivation. Aspirations that develop within a harmonious and supportive family environment have been shown to contribute significantly to individual success in educational, social, and economic domains (Bronfenbrenner 1979).

The objective conditions of the community in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict indicate that families remain the main actors in determining the future direction of their members. The family plays a crucial role as the primary social institution that shapes values, aspirations, and life orientations of individuals, particularly in relation to education and social mobility (Bronfenbrenner, 1979; Coleman, 1988). Strong family values, local traditions, and patterns of relationships among family members significantly influence how individuals perceive education and life achievement (Bourdieu, 1986). However, social realities reveal disparities in families' ability to perform this role optimally. Economic constraints, limited access to education, lack of information, and restrictive social norms continue to hinder the development of family members' aspirations, especially among children and women (Chambers, 2012;

Mardikanto, 2014).

Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics show that educational attainment and family economic conditions have a strong correlation with children's educational achievement and future orientation (BPS 2023). Families with limited economic resources tend to face difficulties in providing adequate access to education, in terms of costs, facilities, and information. This condition contributes to low academic and career aspirations among family members and has the potential to create intergenerational cycles of poverty (Coleman 1988).

In addition to economic factors, social and cultural norms also influence the formation of aspirations within families. In some households, perspectives that restrict certain roles particularly for women still persist, limiting opportunities for personal development. Numerous studies emphasize that emotional support, open communication, and equality of roles within the family are critical factors in building individual self-confidence and motivation (Santrock 2018). Family disharmony, internal conflict, and a lack of positive role models can also inhibit the healthy development of aspirations among family members.

On the other hand, family involvement in social and community activities in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict holds significant potential as a source of inspiration and aspiration enhancement. Families that actively participate in community activities tend to have broader social networks, better access to information, and greater opportunities to encourage their members to pursue higher life goals. Therefore, strengthening the role of the family as a source of aspiration constitutes an important issue in community service activities.

Based on these conditions, this community service program focuses on increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the family as a source of aspiration for its members. Through participatory and educational approaches, the program is expected to generate social change in the form of increased family harmony, strengthened emotional support, and the growth of educational and self-development aspirations among family members. Thus, the family is expected to function not only as a place of residence but also as a fundamental foundation for fostering empowered, independent individuals who can contribute positively to community development in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict.

## **2. METHOD**

This community service activity was conducted in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict, Dumai City, on June 5, 2024, starting at 1:00 p.m. Western Indonesian Time (WIB) until completion. The subjects of the activity were members of the Rimba Sekampung community, including families, students, youth, and community leaders. The selection of the location and

participants was based on the social conditions of the community, which continues to face challenges in building harmonious and prosperous families as sources of aspiration for family members. Local community members were actively involved from the planning stage through coordination with subdistrict officials and community leaders to identify problems and needs relevant to the objectives of the program.

The method employed in this activity was a participatory approach using socialization and educational strategies. The delivery of materials was conducted through interactive presentations that actively engaged participants through discussions, question-and-answer sessions, and the exchange of experiences among participants. This approach aimed to enhance community understanding of the role of the family in shaping members' aspirations and the importance of emotional and educational support in creating harmonious families. In addition, informational media such as leaflets, posters, and infographics were used as supporting tools to reinforce key messages and facilitate participants' comprehension of the material presented.

The implementation of the community service activity consisted of several stages, namely preparation, implementation, and evaluation. The preparation stage included coordination, material development, and the production of informational media. The implementation stage was carried out through socialization and discussions with community members. Subsequently, the evaluation stage was conducted to assess participants' levels of participation and understanding of the materials delivered and to formulate follow-up recommendations. Through these stages, the community service activity is expected to enhance social awareness and strengthen the role of the family as a source of aspiration for family members in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict.

### **3. RESULTS**

The implementation of the community service activities in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict demonstrated a mentoring process that was participatory and responsive to community needs. The range of activities carried out included socialization through interactive presentations, group discussions, and the distribution of informational media such as leaflets and posters concerning the role of the family as a source of aspiration for family members. Throughout the mentoring process, the community showed a relatively high level of enthusiasm, as indicated by active participation in discussion sessions, question-and-answer activities, and the sharing of experiences related to parenting patterns, emotional support, and the role of education within the family.

The outcomes of these activities were reflected in an increased community

understanding of the importance of harmonious families in shaping aspirations and the quality of human resources. Participants began to recognize that emotional support, open communication, and role modeling within the family have a significant influence on the self-confidence and motivation of family members, particularly children and adolescents. In addition, the activities encouraged initial behavioral changes, such as increased parental willingness to support children's education, greater openness to dialogue within families, and a reduction in authoritarian relationship patterns.

Social changes that began to emerge following the activities included the development of collective awareness regarding the importance of the family's role in social development. Several community leaders and youth demonstrated initiatives to act as local leaders by disseminating the information obtained to other residents through informal forums and community activities. This indicates the potential emergence of a new social institution in the form of a community that is concerned with harmonious families, which is expected to contribute to sustainable social transformation in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict.

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

The results of this community service activity are consistent with Bronfenbrenner's theory of human ecological development, which emphasizes that the family constitutes the closest environment (microsystem) and has the greatest influence on individual development, including aspirations and life goals. Field findings indicate that when families are provided with an understanding of the importance of emotional and educational support, there is an increase in awareness and attitudinal change in supporting family members to develop optimally (Bronfenbrenner 1979).

From a social capital perspective, this activity demonstrates that strengthening relationships within families and communities can enhance the capacity of individuals and groups to achieve shared goals. Coleman argues that social capital within families such as trust, norms, and social networks plays a crucial role in the development of high-quality human resources (Coleman 1988). This is reflected in the emergence of local figures who take the initiative to act as agents of change, as well as increased community participation in discussions about harmonious families and educational aspirations.

Furthermore, the findings support the view that community-based empowerment processes are capable of encouraging gradual social transformation. Through a participatory approach, community members are not merely objects of socialization but active subjects involved in the planning and implementation of activities. This process fosters critical

awareness and a sense of ownership of family-related issues, which are essential prerequisites for sustainable social change (Freire 1970). Thus, this community service activity not only resulted in changes at the level of knowledge but also created opportunities for the formation of more supportive social relationships oriented toward the development of family members' aspirations.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The community service activity conducted in Rimba Sekampung Subdistrict demonstrates that the family plays a strategic role as a source of aspiration for its members in shaping the quality of human resources. Through participatory and educational approaches, the activity successfully increased community understanding of the importance of emotional support, harmonious communication, and attention to education as the primary foundations for the formation of individual aspirations. A theoretical reflection of these results reinforces the view that the family represents the closest environment (microsystem) and the most influential factor in individual developmental processes, as explained in the theory of human ecological development.

The results also indicate the emergence of early social changes, characterized by increased collective awareness, changes in attitudes and behaviors within families, and the emergence of community leaders and youth as local change agents. These findings underscore that strengthening social capital within families and communities contributes to the creation of a more supportive environment for the development of family members' aspirations. The dialogue and mentoring processes conducted during the activities fostered critical community awareness of the family's role in social development, such that the family is no longer viewed merely as a private matter but as part of a shared social responsibility.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that community service activities focusing on strengthening the role of the family be carried out continuously and integrated with subdistrict programs. Collaboration among higher education institutions, local government, and community leaders is required to expand program coverage and strengthen family capacity in supporting members' aspirations. In addition, the development of contextualized educational media and the involvement of youth as agents of change should be further enhanced to ensure that social transformation toward harmonious and empowered families can be sustained over time.

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