

The Beyond Borders Humanitarian Mission for Aceh Program in an Effort to Establish International Relations with Educational Institutions in Aceh

Siti Nurzahirah binti Mohd Zulkifli ✉, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris Malaysia, Malaysia

Rosnidawati, Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Muslim Usman, Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Harri Santoso, Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Rohana, SD Negeri 29 Kota Banda Aceh, Indonesia

✉ siti.nurzahirah@upsi.edu.my

Abstract: The Beyond Borders Humanitarian Mission for Aceh (BBHMA) Community Service Program is an international community service program implemented by Sultan Idris University of Education, Malaysia and UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia. BBHMA was implemented on December 12-15, 2024 with 14 UPSI students, 15 UIN Ar-Raniry students, 4 UPSI lecturers and staff and 2 UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh lecturers. This program aims to expand the humanitarian network in activities carried out by students of both countries and open an international network for the development of education both in Indonesia and Malaysia. The development of an international network is one indicator that an institution has the desire to become an institution with an excellent predicate for both secondary, high school and higher education institutions. The BBHMA program is implemented in several forms of activities, namely cultural discussions between students, psychoeducation to students in elementary and high schools, providing assistance to several schools and Islamic boarding schools and signing a cooperation agreement between the UPSI institution and schools. This program has been successfully implemented with several achievements, namely the establishment of communication between UPSI and UIN Ar-raniry students, the establishment of cooperation between institutions and the distribution of several aids to Islamic boarding schools that experienced disasters some time ago in Aceh Besar. This Community Service recommends to all educational institutions both in Indonesia and Malaysia to carry out study tours or similar activities not only for charitable tourism but also can be filled with humanitarian activities and community service. in the context of organizational development.

Keywords: International relations, community service programs, education.

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INTRODUCTION

According to Law Number 20, paragraph 2 concerning the National Education System, universities are obliged to implement the Tri Dharma of Higher Education: education, research, and community service. The Community Service Program is one of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education that is mandatory for universities in Indonesia. According to the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020, a community service

program is an academic community activity that utilizes science and technology to advance public welfare and improve the nation's intellectual life.

The Beyond Borders Humanitarian Mission for Aceh (BBHMA) program is a community service program initiated by Aminurrashid College, Sultan Idris University of Education (UPSI) Malaysia and implemented jointly by two institutions: UPSI Malaysia and UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The BBHMA program aims to develop inter-institutional collaboration, build awareness of the humanitarian spirit among students, and strengthen ties between Indonesia and Malaysia. The international community service program also aligns with Article 22, paragraph 2, of the Regulation of the Minister of Research and Technology (Mendikbud, 2023), which states that educational unit partnerships take the form of collaboration with the business world, industry, parents/guardians, learning communities, partners, and/or other organizations. This community service activity is a partnership with universities in Indonesia and Malaysia that aims to have a positive impact on both parties.

METHODS

This community service activity was carried out for 5 days, namely on December 12-16, 2024. The activities were carried out in several places including: UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh Campus, SD Negeri 29 Banda Aceh City, PAUD Az Zahra Lamteumen Timur, SMPIT Al Farabi and several historical places in Banda Aceh City and Aceh Besar. The activities were carried out in several forms, namely Intercultural dialogue before and after the presence of UPSI students in Banda Aceh, Psychoeducation on Early Childhood Education, learning science more fun, cultural dialogue and the signing of cooperation between UPSI Institutions, SMPIT Al Farabi and SD Negeri 29 Banda Aceh City.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

BBHMA's community service activities have been successfully implemented at several locations in Banda Aceh City and Aceh Besar Regency. These activities involved the community and stakeholders in schools, universities, and children's education centers. The involvement of many parties demonstrates that these activities significantly support the achievement of quality education, aligning with the spirit of Indonesia's national education system.



Figure 1. *Establishment of Cooperation Agreement between institutions*

The collaboration between UPSI and SMPIT Al Farabi will strengthen human resource development through several alternative activities that can be implemented in both Malaysia and Indonesia. The signing of this cooperation agreement was attended by stakeholders from both the school and the Aceh Besar District Education Office. The

presence of the Aceh Besar Education Office demonstrates the support provided by the local government for the activities carried out by SMPIT Al Farabi. This is very much in line with xxxxxx that the school must be able to establish relationships with many institutions to become a quality school.



Figure 2. *Implementation of Joint Learning Activities for Students in Kindergartens, Elementary Schools and Middle Schools*

Learning activities with UPSI students who invite students at SMPIT Al Farabi to learn science in a fun and enjoyable way. This method will increase students' enthusiasm for learning, especially learning about natural sciences. Then the learning material delivered by foreign teachers, especially Malaysians, will provide a different experience from their daily learning experiences. Interacting with foreign teachers and students provides an experience to exchange information, customs and habits that students have. This activity also provides an understanding for all involved about the culture and customs of both students in Malaysia and Indonesia. Intercultural learning will provide a special experience for students, this is in line with Appadurai, A. (1996). That the dimension of learning can occur with cultural differences that exist in students.



Figure 3. *Student Dialogue Program both before and after the 2025 BBHMA activities*

One of the series of activities carried out before UPSI Malaysia students arrived in Banda Aceh City was a dialogue program between students. The dialogue program between students was carried out in 3 stages, namely before the team arrived in Banda Aceh, when the team arrived in Banda Aceh and after the team had completed their activities in Banda Aceh. The dialogue between students carried out both before and after the Malaysian student team in Banda Aceh discussed topics currently being discussed in the community such as: education, economic, social and cultural issues. In each dialogue session, two speakers were presented, namely UPSI students and UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh students. And in the dialogue session between students which was held offline in the Rector's Meeting Room of UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh, the dialogue was opened by the Vice Rector III of UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh, Prof. Dr. Saifullah Idris and attended by several student elements from UIN Ar-raniry, UPSI and Syiah Kuala University.



Figure 4. Student Dialogue Program in the Rector's Meeting Room of UIN Ar-raniry Banda Aceh

This student dialogue activity has fostered a strong understanding between students from UPSI, UIN Ar-Raniry, and Syiah Kuala University. It is hoped that this understanding will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood between the Indonesian and Malaysian peoples in the future. Students from both Indonesia and Malaysia are agents of change and will become future leaders, which will be instrumental in strengthening relations between the two countries in the future. The dialogue between students from different countries will also provide leadership transformation experiences for both parties, as evidenced by Bass, B.M., & Riggio, R.E. (2006).

Furthermore, the activities held at several schools in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar have left a very positive impression on the principals and teachers. The presence of these students has been a valuable experience for all of us, not only the students but also the teachers at our schools.

"Pengalaman kunjungan ini sangat memberikan suatu Kesan yang sangat baik kepada semua warga sekolah, oleh karenanya kami sangat berterima kasih kepada pihak UIN Ar-raniry yang telah memilih sekolah kami untuk melaksanakan kegiatan ini" R/Desember 2024

The 2024 BBHMA program has made a positive impression not only on students but also on all school residents, from early childhood education (PAUD), elementary school to secondary school levels in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar.

CONCLUSION

The 2024 BBHMA program has been successfully implemented. This activity has fostered positive relationships between individuals and institutions. These relationships will be invaluable for capacity development, including capacity building for teaching staff.

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