

Distribution of Secanting Rice to Underprivileged Families in Bintan Regency

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ABSTRACT

Poverty, being a major problem in Bintan Regency, hampers people's access to their basic food needs. The purpose of the "Distribution of Secanting Rice to Underprivileged Families" program is to help underprivileged families overcome their difficulties in life by providing rice. This community service aims to find out how the mechanism for distributing secanting rice assistance to underprivileged families works. This program involves various elements of society, from funding, fundraising, or donations, to providing direct assistance to target families. The results of community service related to the implementation of this program show an increase in household food security and greater social concern among the Bintan community. This program is expected to be a long-term solution to the food problems of poor families.

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Tridharma of higher education adopted by the campus community (lecturers and students), which includes Education, Service, and Research. Therefore, both lecturers and students are required to carry out these three things as a foundation. Students are human beings who are considered to have more academic abilities than other people. So that this position makes it easier for students to apply their knowledge for the benefit of the community, especially in village development. As a young generation that is expected to play an active role in development, students can participate in carrying out development through various channels, both through non-formal channels, for example through various community organizations, and through formal channels, one of which is through the Community Service Lecture (KPM) program (Syahputra, 2020). In general, the implementation of the darma of community service by universities has not carried out many functions of developing, applying and utilizing the products of the darma of education and research (Sutrisno, 1996). Likewise, the target of community assistance must require free assistance. This may be the result of a mistake in giving the definition of “community service” only as a “selfless activity”, so that the audience targeted by the perpetrators of this community service darma is automatically those (groups of people) who expect free assistance as well. As a result, community service activities that have been carried out, both by PTN and PTS, tend to lead to service activities to the community that are carried out free of charge (Herlina, 2022).

Sociologists distinguish poverty into two: 1) Absolute poverty is poverty that occurs when people cannot obtain the necessities to support a minimum level of physical health and efficiency, often expressed in terms of caloric or nutritional adequacy. 2) Relative poverty is poverty defined by the general standard of living in different societies and what is culturally defined as poor rather than absolute levels of poverty. When poverty is defined relatively, according to the standard of living enjoyed by a large proportion of the population, poverty levels will differ between societies and within societies over time (Abercrombie et al. 2010: 433) in Wardaya (2018).

Some other opinions about the categories of poverty include: (1). According to Dr. Murjanto Danusaputro, poverty is an income of 320 kg of large equivalents for residents in cities or 240 kg for residents in rural areas a year. (2). Moh. Bambang Agustin, poor is still better, because there are still more miserable, namely the poor. The poor have nothing at all, no dignity, no clothes. (3). Firdaus Wadjdi, poor is when parents cannot pay for their children to go to school. This is already included in the category of poor in Itang's research (2017).

Poverty is one of the social challenges still faced by many regions in Indonesia, including Bintan Regency. Poor families often experience limitations in fulfilling their basic needs, especially food. Therefore, the “Secanting Rice Distribution” initiative aims to ease their burden through sustainable food distribution. Poverty is caused by several factors, one of which is inadequate human resources. This is because the poor tend to have very low education, so they are unable to compete and eventually become unemployed (Ginting, 2021).

Welfare in general is a dream for every human being who lives in the world. What is meant by welfare is the security and safety of life, namely a concept that shows a situation where everyone, both as individuals and as members of society, can fulfill their needs because of the availability of goods and services that can be obtained at relatively cheap prices. Midgley (in Sutomo, 2006: 12)

The increase in food prices, especially rice, has become one of the main factors affecting people's purchasing power. Therefore, the initiative of "Distributing a Shred of Rice to Underprivileged Families" is important to provide a practical solution for families in need, as well as to reduce the impact of the economic hardship they are experiencing. This program is expected to not only help in fulfilling temporary food needs, but also build social awareness in improving mutual welfare. The Secanting Beras program is a social initiative initiated by the Regent of Bintan, Apri Sujadi, to help people in need, especially the poor and orphans. The program involves the collection of rice from state civil apparatus (ASN) within the Bintan Regency Government, which is then distributed to residents in need. In its implementation, the program has successfully distributed rice assistance to hundreds of residents, as was the case in Sei Nam Village, East Bintan District, where around 250 people received rice assistance in an event attended by the Regent of Bintan, The movement aims to encourage solidarity and social awareness among the community, with the slogan "Secanting Rice is Light for You, Means for Your Brother".

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

This student community service was carried out at the Bintan Regency Social Service, Riau Islands Province. This activity took place from July 15 to August 15, 2024. The participants of this service were students of Raja Ali Haji Maritime University, and were accompanied by the Head of Social Linjamsos and the Secretariat. The method used in this service is the Identification and data collection method. Cooperation is carried out between the DINSOS Bintan coordinator and local village officials to record underprivileged families who need assistance. And this rice assistance is distributed directly to recipient families through home visits or predetermined distribution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rice distribution program for underprivileged families in Bintan Regency was successfully implemented in accordance with the established plan. The secanting rice program has succeeded in reducing the burden on the community, especially for people whose basic food needs have not been met. Some families previously had difficulty buying rice on a daily basis and were able to focus more on other needs after receiving assistance. The Bintan government is trying to make this program last for a long time and be able to help local people who need assistance. This program really requires accuracy in identifying the data received so that the assistance distributed is right on target to people who really need it.

Counseling and socialization during the distribution process related to the importance of the sustainability of this food assistance program, as well as the importance of other food assistance besides rice to support community resilience. The community was very enthusiastic in participating in the socialization and some of them expressed their desire to improve their consumption patterns and resource management.



Figure 1. (Post) Distribution of Secantig Rice to the Beneficiary Community

Based on the picture above, the service students together with the DINSOS Bintan coordinator distributed Secanting Rice assistance to underprivileged families. The distribution of Secanting Rice assistance is carried out every month, after obtaining data collection results from local village officials, the coordinator immediately distributes assistance after checking various factors along with the criteria for the accuracy of beneficiaries. The DINSOS Bintan coordinator also brings the Minutes of Handover (BAST) to the recipient community. Eligibility to receive assistance will be the most important benchmark at the time of distribution of aid. So, the role of service students here is to find out how the government coordinator works in serving underprivileged communities. Every complaint from the community must be accepted and will be used as a reference for assistance that will be organized in the future.



Figure.2 (Post) Distribution of Secanting Rice through Village Officials for Underprivileged People who are on Different Islands

Based on the picture above, service students together with the DINSOS Bintan coordinator distributed Secanting Rice assistance to village officials for underprivileged families whose areas had to cross first. From the picture above, we can know that the Secanting Rice program assistance is not only in one land area but also in remote areas. Because based on data collection that has been sent by village officials to the DINSOS Bintan coordinator.



Figure 3. (Post) Community Service Students Attend Bintan Social Service Coordinator Meeting

Community service through the rice secanting program implemented in Bintan Regency has had a significant impact on family welfare. Several recipients of assistance said that they were able to set aside a little money for other needs, in addition there was an increase in the sense of solidarity between residents who helped each other. The success of this program is highly dependent on good cooperation between the government, the community, and the community service team. This collaboration ensures that the assistance runs smoothly and is right on target. This program can have a long-term impact, although this program is limited to distributing rice for a certain period of time, the social and economic impacts left behind can last longer. Communities who feel helped tend to care more about others and are better prepared to face economic challenges in the future.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It can be concluded that the program of distributing a secanting of rice to underprivileged families in Bintan Regency has succeeded in achieving its main objective, namely reducing the burden on families in meeting food needs. This program not only provides direct benefits in the form of food assistance, but also has a positive impact on the community socially and economically. This food assistance has proven effective in providing support to underprivileged families, so that they can focus more on meeting other needs. Providing a secanting of rice helps them survive in difficult situations without having to worry about food shortages.

The "Distribution of Secanting of Rice to Underprivileged Families" program in Bintan Regency aims to help poor families through rice distribution. This program involves the community in data collection, fundraising, and distribution of assistance, which results in increased food security and social solidarity. This program is expected to be a long-term solution to food problems and can be an example for other areas. The implementation of the program involves students of Raja Ali Haji Maritime University and village officials, with a positive impact in the form of reducing the economic burden for recipients of assistance and increasing solidarity between residents. The success of the program depends on collaboration between the government, community, and service teams.

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