

THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL NATIONAL CRAFTS COUNCIL OF EAST NUSA TENGGARA PROVINCE IN EMPOWERING WOVEN FABRIC CRAFTS GROUPS

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Abstract

This research aims to determine the role of the NTT Dekranasda in empowering woven fabric craft groups. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with combined data collection techniques through interviews, observation, documentation and focus group discussions (FGD).

The results of the research show that Dekranasda NTT has played a role in empowering woven fabric craft groups, including Dekranasda NTT acting as a motivator in human development and institutional development, a communicator in business development and institutional development, and a dynamist in business development and institutional development. However, in carrying out its role, Dekranasda NTT experienced several obstacles, including limited capital to carry out woven fabric craft development activities again and obstacles faced by craft groups, namely lack of capital and raw materials in the weaving process, resulting in delays in every activity. Craft groups still need to issue business permits and copyrights for each of their businesses and weavings; this could be a waste of money for anyone who is not responsible for plagiarizing the weaving that the craft group has weaved.

Keywords: Role, Empowerment, Woven Fabric Crafts, Dekranasda NTT

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries rich in artistic and cultural heritage. One of these cultural legacies is the diversity of traditional fabrics and weaves. This diversity is a form of women working on symbols highlighting customs, religion, geographical location and other things from people's daily lives. East Nusa Tenggara is one of the provinces in Indonesia, which is very rich in culture. Apart from being rich in local culture, the people of East Nusa Tenggara adhere to the local cultural values inherited from their ancestors, one of which is weaving, which is still maintained today. by the people of East Nusa Tenggara (Kehi et al., 2023).

The Regional National Crafts Council (Dekranasda) is a private organizational institution formed as a government partner and a forum for all stakeholders in Indonesia's arts and crafts sector to gather. Dekranasda is a private organization formed as a government partner centered on Dekranas (National et al.) to support and encourage empowered craftsmen (Dekranas, 2022). Dekranas was formed on March 3, 1980, in Jakarta based on the decree of the Minister of Industry Number 85/M/SK/3/1980 and the Minister of Education and Culture Number 072b/P/1980, which was then formed to carry out its roles and duties at the regional level Dekranasda (Regional et al.) on December 15 1981 based on an official decision from the Minister of Home Affairs Number: 537/5038/Sospol (Marketing and Cooperation Staff of NTT Dekranasda, 2023).

The task of the NTT Provincial Dekranasda is to guide woven fabric artisans; guidance includes formal and non-formal educational efforts carried out consciously, planned, directed, organized and responsible to introduce, grow, guide and develop the basics of their personality. Balanced, complete and harmonious knowledge and skills by talents, inclinations/desires and abilities as provisions to further increase, improve and develop oneself, others and the environment towards achieving optimal human dignity, quality and abilities and an independent individual (National Dekranasda Promotion Staff, NTT, 2023).

Woven fabric is familiar to Indonesian society today. Woven fabric is a unique cultural heritage with existing ethical values. Its uniqueness is shown by various motifs, which have their meaning. In NTT, there are various ethnic groups with their respective languages, customs, culture, and, of course, traditional weaving, each different from the others in form and characteristics. Each ethnic group has its unique variety of woven decorations (Kehi et al., 2023).

This research focuses on the role of the NTT Dekranasda in empowering woven fabric craft groups. The woven fabric craft development activities held by Dekranasda NTT started in 2019 and are still ongoing. Dekranasda has five programs: woven fabric development program, culinary, weaving gallery, coffee lap, and cafe. The researcher focused this research on empowering woven fabric craft groups; in Dekranasda, there are three types of weaving: ikat weaving, buna weaving and sotis weaving. The price set by Dekranasda for each weaving starts from IDR 200,000 to IDR 2,000,000; the time needed to weave is from one week to two weeks.

To preserve NTT woven fabric, the government is holding an Entrepreneurial Skills Education (PKW) program for woven commodities. Located at the Regional National Crafts Council (Dekranasda) Building, East Nusa Tenggara Province, the PKW program was officially opened by the General Chair of the National Crafts Council (Dekranas), Wury Ma'ruf Amin. This Entrepreneurial Skills Education (PKW) activity was held offline and attended by 1,000 participants from 18 (eighteen) regions and cities throughout East Nusa Tenggara Province.

Dekranasda holds weaving craft development activities to help groups who want to try their hand at weaving but are still hampered by the lack of availability of raw materials, and there are still many people or woven cloth artisans who still think that woven cloth can still be marketed or can still be marketed with its characteristics. Initially, there was no need to innovate on weaving; apart from that, Dekranasda aimed to guide people/communities in villages and cities, with a livelihood from weaving, on how to take advantage of the opportunities through weaving.

Therefore, Dekranasda must increase its performance in promoting and introducing the weaving craft activities that are carried out. How does Dekranasda provide sound guidance to artisans and the public? What are the efforts to overcome the problems of price, capital, fabric materials, motifs and the like? From this description, the Author wants to explore more knowledge and information from Dekranasda.

A business partnership is a cooperation between two parties with equal rights and obligations and mutual benefit Supriadi (1997). In Government Regulation No. 44 of 1997 concerning Partnerships, it has also been explained that the meaning of partnership is business cooperation between small businesses and medium businesses or large businesses accompanied by guidance and development by medium or large businesses taking into account the principles of mutual need, mutual strengthening and win-win solution.

Three fundamental principles need to be understood in building a partnership by each partnership member, namely:

1. Principle of Equality (Equity)

Individuals, organizations or institutions willing to establish partnerships must feel equal to others in achieving agreed-upon goals.

2. Principle of Openness

Openness to each member's shortcomings or weaknesses and various resources. Other members must know all of this. Openness exists from the partnership's beginning until the activity's end. This openness will create complementarity and assistance between groups (partners).

3. The principle of the principle of mutual benefit

Individuals, organizations or institutions that have established partnerships benefit from the existing partnerships according to their contributions. Activities or work will be efficient and effective if done together.

Woven Fabric Crafts. The definition of crafts is a result of art created by humans in the form of objects with various shapes and colors that they like. The term craft comes from the word "diligent," which means objects or items produced by the skill of someone's hands.

Fabric is a woven item used for clothing or other purposes. Woven fabrics are made from thread, cotton, silk and more. Based on this definition, woven fabric crafts are efforts by artisans to produce work items

of artistic value made from woven products embroidered with gold or silver thread and a combination of other colored threads (KBBI, 2005: 230).

NTT woven cloth is a Timorese cloth made from the weaving process by the people of East Nusa Tenggara. Weaving makes cloth by inserting weft threads horizontally into the warp threads, usually tied first and dipped in natural dye. These natural dyes are usually made from tree roots, but some also use leaves.

Types of weaving according to the method of manufacture are divided into three:

1. Ikat weaving motifs are created from tying threads. In other areas, the weft thread is tied, so woven fabric in NTT is made by tying the warp;
2. Buna weaving originates from North Central Timor, where the woven pattern is formed from thread dipped in dye first. The thread is inserted into the horizontal thread/weft weave, so this technique is also called the additional weft technique;
3. Lotis, Sotis or Songket Weaving: This technique uses colored threads without tying them. Motifs are created from vertical threads (warp) that jump over one horizontal thread (weft).

The Role of Dekranasda in Empowering Woven Craft Groups. The presence of Dekranasda as a forum for the community to develop their skills and businesses through this craft is hoped to improve the economy and welfare of the craftsman community. In implementing the program, Dekranasda has the following roles:

1. **Motivator.** Motivators are tasked with providing motivation, exploring potential, growing and developing people's awareness of the problems they face, of the potential of resources, both human resources and natural resources, in order to improve their fate and build a better future on the potential and self-reliance of the community itself.
2. **Communicator.** Observing, recording and channeling community aspirations and needs to be used as material for formulating policies and planning development programs, helping to launch cooperative relationships with the same interests and goals in the community, and monitoring/supervising the implementation of community development programs.
3. **Dynamisator.** Develop program methods and introduce innovations in technology and organizational management that the local community still needs to discover for its development and progress.

The Role of Regional National Crafts Councils as Institutions. The Regional National Crafts Council (Dekranasda) is a private organization formed as a government partner that aims to preserve the nation's artistic and cultural values, which are reflected in craft products so that they are more advanced and developed and improve the welfare of craftsmen.

The task of the Dekranasda of East Nusa Tenggara Province is to guide woven fabric artisans; guidance includes formal and non-formal educational efforts carried out consciously, planned, directed, organized and responsibly in order to introduce, grow, guide and develop an essential basis of a balanced, complete and harmonious personality, knowledge and skills by talents, inclinations/desires and abilities as a provision, to then on his/her strength add, improve and develop himself, others and his environment towards achieving human dignity, quality and abilities. Optimal and independent personality.

The Role of Dekranasda in Cultural Promotion. Dekranasda is a forum for producing and distributing traditional craft products from the Kupang City area of East Nusa Tenggara Province. It has a significant role in providing information about the traditional crafts produced and the quality of these craft products, which is equal to that of foreign products.

METHODS

The type of approach used in this research is descriptive research using a qualitative approach, namely research used to examine human and social problems. The focus of this research is the role of

Dekranasda NTT in empowering woven fabric craft groups, which is measured through three roles of Dekranasda: motivator, communicator, and dynamist, with four main efforts: human development, environmental development, business development, and institutional development.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research location was chosen at the NTT Dekranasda to find out how the NTT Dekranasda carries out its role as a motivator, communicator and dynamist for each woven fabric craft group, using Mardikanto's opinion, which states that empowerment can occur in four stages, namely human development, business development, development institutional, environmental development. This research focuses on the role of the Regional National Crafts Council of East Nusa Tenggara Province in empowering woven fabric craft groups. The research was carried out by collecting documents, observations and interviews with ten informants, one key informant, one main informant and eight additional informants.

Motivator. The analysis of human and environmental development results shows that Dekranasda NTT has empowered woven fabric craft groups. However, craft groups experience several obstacles, such as a need for more raw materials and limited capital, which hinder their weaving activities. Raw materials such as natural dyes are needed for dyeing woven fabrics. However, the lack of availability of natural dyes is because craft groups do not cultivate dye plants, and there is also a lack of suppliers or no partners who can work together to supply these raw materials.

Communicator. In business development and institutional development, Dekranasda NTT has tried to help every craft group to be able to take part in exhibitions so they can market their woven products; Dekranasda NTT has also helped every craft group to process business permits, copyrights and patents for each of their businesses and also fabrics. Woven them with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and DPMPTSP. In terms of capital, Dekranasda NTT can only provide it in the form of raw materials for weaving due to the limited capital owned by Dekranasda NTT.

Dynamist. The results of the analysis on business development and institutional development in this dynamic section show that Dekranasda NTT has carried out its role in coordinating each craft group's promotion through social media so that they can attract visitors. Dekranasda has also helped publicize woven fabrics from craft groups.

From research conducted by researchers, Dekranasda NTT has carried out its role in empowering woven cloth craft groups. However, in carrying out its role, Dekranasda NTT found several woven cloth craft groups that still needed help in the weaving process, such as a lack of raw materials, lack of capital, and craft groups. It was still found that they did not manage the waste from the remaining dyes in the yarn correctly where the waste from the dyes was thrown haphazardly into the open environment; they should have made a holding tank so that the remaining waste could be appropriately managed and not pollute the surrounding environment. There are also still some in the woven fabric craft group that still need to maximize their innovation in woven fabric.

Dekranasda NTT is also trying to acquire land to cultivate plants as raw materials for natural dyes in woven fabrics; Denkransda NTT is also trying to help every craft group with capital assistance for their businesses. Therefore, Dekranasda NTT still has to work hard so that we can help each group with woven cloth crafts.

The study's results are directly based on data processing and data in the field that has been carried out, including previous research, so that research relationships can be known. The scientific findings in question are data obtained while conducting research activities for the public. The results and discussion are based on the analysis and interpretation of theory and research results by including data processing results. (Font: Cambria, 11, Before, After, 2pt, Line Spacing, Single).

CONCLUSION

Based on the description of the research results and discussions outlined in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that Dekranasda NTT has played a role in empowering woven fabric craft groups, including:

1. In human development, Dekranasda NTT has made efforts so that each group can be well empowered. Dekranasda NTT has made efforts through PKW activities by providing training to each woven cloth craft group to maximize existing resources so that through these activities, it can help the community. Craftsman group. By carefully paying attention to selecting raw materials, they produce good weaving.
2. Environmental development is carried out through empowerment to improve community principles, values, assumptions, beliefs, and relationships between communities through cooperation in the presence of an interest. This woven fabric craft group can help the economy of every artisan whose artisans are teenagers and housewives.
3. Dekranasda NTT develops its business by collaborating with parties such as KEMENKUMHAM and DPMPTSP in terms of business permits for groups, copyrights on woven fabric motifs and patent rights on woven fabrics. With this, Dekranasda NTT hopes that every group can be well-empowered.
4. Institutional development carried out by the NTT Dekranasda involves activities such as training, becoming a liaison for craft groups and partnering with raw material providers. Craft groups can be involved in exhibitions, which can provide them with a good income.

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