



## **The Footprint of Progressive Women's Service In Anggana District, Kutai Kartanegara, East Kalimantan**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction to The Problem:** The implementation of Community Service in the Muhammadiyah organization brings many benefits and advantages for Muslims in Indonesia in general and Muhammadiyah members in particular. To find out how the contribution and implementation of community service in the field of upholding brotherhood and improving the quality of the community, this study conducted mini research in 2 Muhammadiyah schools in Anggana District, namely TK Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal 1 Anggana and SD Muhammadiyah 1 Anggana, as well as research was also conducted at the Aisyiyah religious study in Anggana District. **Purpose:** To find out how the contribution and implementation of community service in the field of upholding brotherhood and improving the quality of the community. **Design/methods/approach:** The method used to collect data was by interview and observation. **Findings:** The results obtained were that the 'Aisyiyah study and Muhammadiyah schools in Anggana District have played a significant role in strengthening Islamic brotherhood and shaping students' character. Both have shown consistent efforts in realizing Islamic values in everyday life. **Research implications/limitations:** None **Originality/value:** None.

**Keywords:** Islamic character; quality improvement; service

### **Introduction**

Muhammadiyah, one of the largest Islamic organizations in Indonesia, was founded on November 18, 1912, by KH. Ahmad Dahlan in Kauman, Yogyakarta. Since its establishment, it has consistently offered modern ideas that align with the current era while adhering to the guidance of the Quran and Hadith. As a modern organization that firmly believes in Islam as the divine message brought by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a guiding principle for Muslims until the end of time, Muhammadiyah has dynamic and comprehensive thoughts about Islam. This means that

Muhammadiyah continuously strives to integrate universal Islamic values with the ever-changing context of time. This approach is in line with the decision of the 48th Congress, which resulted in the declaration of the “Islamic Message of Progress” (Pimpinan Pusat Muhammadiyah, 2023).

Islamic Progressivism, or Progressive Islam, is the core concept of Muhammadiyah, an Indonesian Islamic organization founded in 1912 (Arifin et al., 2022). This idea, which has its roots in early 20th-century Islamic discourse, emerged as a response to the social, political, and economic challenges under the colonial rule of the Dutch (Arifin et al., 2022). Muhammadiyah implements this concept through education, healthcare, economic development, and humanitarian efforts (Kahfi, 2020). Haedar Nashir, a prominent figure, views Progressive Islam as a reflection of the spirit of reform and modernization while preserving strong Islamic values. He advocates for a contextual and inclusive approach to interpreting Islamic teachings, addressing contemporary needs and challenges (Dias, 2024). This progressive ideology has made a significant contribution to the sustainability and dynamic development of Muhammadiyah in Indonesia.

Muhammadiyah is an organization that emphasizes the importance of charitable deeds (*amal saleh*). The organization strives for the welfare of the community, the nation, humanity, international relations, and the future well-being of humankind. These services are carried out with sincere intentions to seek the pleasure of Allah SWT and to bring maximum benefit to others (Pimpinan Pusat Muhammadiyah, 2023). According to Wikipedia, “*perkhidmatan*” refers to the work carried out by an individual or a group of individuals for the benefit of others (without selling goods). It can be said that “*perkhidmatan*” refers to all forms of service and dedication without expecting any reward. As an organization that emphasizes the importance of *amal saleh*, Muhammadiyah serves the interests of the community, the nation, humanity, international relations, and the future welfare of humankind. These services are performed with sincerity to seek Allah’s pleasure and to provide widespread benefit (Pimpinan Pusat Muhammadiyah, 2023). One form of service within Muhammadiyah is community service, which includes, first, the reinforcement of *ukhuwah* (brotherhood), meaning to deepen and strengthen the bonds of fellowship, and second, the improvement of the quality of the community, meaning efforts to enhance the overall quality of life for Muslims in spiritual, social, and intellectual aspects.

In relation to community service within Muhammadiyah, the author intends to examine how the trace of the Islamic Message of Progress is reflected, and more specifically, the role of Progressive Women. Progressive Women are characterized by their *Amaliah Shalihan* (righteous deeds) and their commitment to community empowerment and public participation (Progressive Women), particularly in Anggana District, in reinforcing *ukhuwah* and improving quality in both spiritual and intellectual aspects.

## Literature Review

The concept of a progressive woman is a forward-thinking idea aimed at achieving the advancement of humanity on Earth, both as servants and as khalifah (guardians). A progressive woman embodies an ideal character: faith and piety, devotion to worship, noble character, innovative thinking, and a balanced approach, performing righteous actions and being inclusive in her attitude. A progressive woman is also committed to several important aspects, including mastery of science and technology, environmental preservation, strengthening the family unit, community empowerment, progressive philanthropy, being an agent of peace, public participation, economic independence, national roles, and universal humanity (from the manuscript on Progressive Women).

## Methods

To obtain results from the implementation of community service in strengthening ukhuwah and improving quality, the researcher conducted a study using a qualitative method. Qualitative research is an approach grounded in postpositivist philosophy to examine the conditions of natural objects (Abdussamad, 2022). Data collection was carried out using interviews and observations. The interview technique is a data collection method through a one-way verbal question-and-answer process, while observation is a technique for collecting data through direct observation (Wada et al., 2024).

This research was conducted at TK Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal 1 Anggana, SD Muhammadiyah 1 Anggana, and Aisyiyah study groups in Anggana District on November 28, 2024, and January 24, 2025.

## Result

The footprint of Muhammadiyah's community service in Anggana District, Kutai Kartanegara, East Kalimantan can be seen in the following table:

No	Institution	Strengthening Ukhuwah	
		Strengthening Ukhuwah	Improving the Quality of the Ummah
1	TK Aisyiyah and SD Muhammadiyah	1. Regular and alternating study groups in each Aisyiyah member's home.	1. Educating women to become more pious through religious education, focusing on

		2. Training involving organizational youth groups: Nasyiatul Aisyiyah and Pemuda Muhammadiyah, to strengthen ukhuwah. 3. Exploring the methods of the Prophet's da'wah to align the vision in da'wah activities.	minority Muslim and multicultural contexts. 2. Promoting women in religious education, public speaking, and political participation. 3. Incorporating values of diversity and tolerance to help adapt in various conditions.
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## Discussion

### Strengthening Ukhuwah

The "Aisyiyah" study groups in Anggana District have functioned as a useful tool for strengthening ukhuwah (brotherhood) bonds among its members. The regular and alternating study sessions held at the homes of members have created an intimate and supportive environment. These sessions highlight the role of Aisyiyah, an Islamic women's organization, in strengthening Muslim brotherhood (ukhuwah) and empowering women through various activities. Aisyiyah promotes women's participation in religious education, public speaking, and political involvement (Sufanti et al., 2021b). The content of these study sessions is also relevant to current issues and is tailored to the needs of the members. These groups aim to nurture pious wives through effective management and religious teaching, especially in regions with Muslim minorities (Sitorus et al., 2023).

The teaching in these study groups has successfully instilled the values of ukhuwah and actively engaged participants through discussions, Q&A, and the use of visual media. Exploring the methods of Prophet Muhammad's da'wah for non-Muslims, including dialogue, storytelling, and analogies, emphasizes the role of moral values in successful da'wah to a multicultural society. These studies collectively highlight the importance of context-specific and tailored approaches in Islamic da'wah, particularly when addressing diverse audiences such as women or people of different faiths (Huda, 2016).

Additionally, Aisyiyah seeks to incorporate values of diversity and tolerance into the educational process. The organization also carries out kaderization involving the younger generation through activities such as Nasyiatul Aisyiyah and Pemuda Muhammadiyah youth

organizations, and collaborates with other institutions to expand the reach and positive impact of its programs. In terms of Aisyiyah's charitable endeavors in Anggana, several initiatives are already running, including TK ABA 1 Anggana, TK ABA 2 Anggana, SD Muhammadiyah 1 Anggana, Posbindu Aisyiyah, and Poslansia Aisyiyah. These organizations cover various sectors, with education being the primary focus (Bandarsyah & Pradita, 2019).

However, some challenges remain, such as the lack of ability to advise one another and insufficient mastery of information technology. To address these issues, Aisyiyah continues to strive towards its long-term goal: 'Aisyiyah will continue spreading goodness, reinforcing religious understanding, and improving the dignity of women. This organization focuses on religion, social welfare, education, and women's issues to meet the ever-growing needs of society (Seniwati & Lestari, 2019).

### **Improving the Quality of the Ummah**

The vision of TK Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal 1 Anggana is "To create a conducive, democratic, Islamic preschool education system oriented towards the pleasure of Allah SWT." Meanwhile, the vision of SD Muhammadiyah 1 Anggana is "To produce students with noble character, creativity, and achievements in accordance with the values of Pancasila." The curriculum they use combines the government curriculum with that of the organization, focusing on instilling the values of tauhid, akhlakul karimah, and the manners exemplified by Prophet Muhammad SAW. The schools aim to instill Islamic character values such as noble character, faith, generosity, and courage. In relation to character formation, these schools apply strategies such as habituation, which is also exemplified by the teachers.

At TK Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal 33, the habituation process is not limited to verbal motivation or words alone; it also involves habituation through behavior. The behavior demonstrated by children after receiving this guidance from the teachers (Magfiroh et al., 2019) shows the impact of these practices. Teachers apply various strategies such as habituation, role modeling, and contextual learning to instill character values (Zaidah & Aryati, 2024).

The vision and mission of the schools have instilled the concept of community service. This is evidenced by various initiatives carried out, such as the development of Al-Islam, parenting activities, and education. In addition, the schools collaborate with the community to implement beneficial programs. Aisyiyah's educational efforts extend to early childhood education, with the kindergarten applying Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah curricula to instill religious character in children (Pitri et al., 2024). However, the schools still face challenges such as the diversity of students' backgrounds and cultures.

The schools address these challenges by utilizing information and communication technology (ICT) to improve the quality of education and expand access to learning. The integration of ICT in Muhammadiyah schools has become increasingly important, especially in the context of Indonesia's 2013 curriculum. At the elementary level, the implementation of ICT must align with the project-based approach of the Merdeka curriculum to foster the Pancasila student profile (Taufik et al., 2024).

Additionally, the schools conduct periodic evaluations to measure the success of their initiatives. Regular evaluation is a crucial part of improving the quality of the school and education. It helps identify variations in teaching methods and assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of educational activities (Destian, 2023; Ramasari et al., 2024). Changes in students' attitudes and behavior can indicate the success of the program. Therefore, Muhammadiyah schools remain committed to achieving their vision and mission of shaping a generation with Islamic character that benefits society.

## **Conclusion**

Muhammadiyah has made a significant contribution to community service, both in strengthening ukhuwah (brotherhood) and improving the quality of the ummah. This research highlights the important role of Aisiyah study groups in Anggana District in strengthening ukhuwah Islamiyah among its members. Regular study sessions, relevant material, and interactive teaching methods have successfully created a conducive environment for fostering brotherhood. Furthermore, Aisiyah's efforts to integrate values of diversity and tolerance, as well as involve the younger generation in organizational activities, have further strengthened this foundation of ukhuwah. On the other hand, the research also reveals challenges faced, such as the lack of certain skills.

The Muhammadiyah schools in Anggana District also show a strong commitment to shaping a generation of youth with Islamic character. The integrated curriculum with Islamic values, various character-building programs, and cooperation with the community are tangible evidence of this effort. However, the schools also face challenges such as the diversity of students' backgrounds. Nevertheless, by utilizing information technology and conducting regular evaluations, the schools continue to strive to improve the quality of education and achieve their vision.

Both Aisiyah study groups and Muhammadiyah schools in Anggana District have played a significant role in strengthening ukhuwah Islamiyah and shaping students' character. Both have shown consistent efforts in implementing Islamic values in daily life. However, it is important to

continue with evaluations and improvements to address existing challenges and enhance the quality of ongoing programs. Closer collaboration between various parties, including the community, government, and relevant institutions, is also essential to achieving larger goals in building a better society.

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