

## Efforts to Improve Economic Literacy in Students of Kalam Kudus Christian High School in Welcoming the Era of Society 5.0

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### Abstract.

This community service initiative focuses on improving economic literacy among students of SMA Kristen Kalam Kudus as preparation for facing challenges and opportunities in the era of Society 5.0. Society 5.0, a concept that emphasizes the integration of advanced technology with social systems, demands a workforce that is not only skilled in technology but also economically literate. This program aims to equip students with essential economic knowledge and skills, as well as enhance their understanding of financial concepts, entrepreneurship, and the digital economy. Through workshops, interactive discussions, and practical applications, this initiative provides students with the tools they need to navigate and succeed in an increasingly digital and connected world. This effort contributes to shaping a generation that is able to make informed economic decisions, thus supporting their personal and professional development in the context of Society 5.0.



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## Introduction

Education is the process of taking, conveying, and applying knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to individuals through various means such as teaching, learning, and research. Quoted from Law No. 20 of 2003 Article 3 "National education functions to develop abilities and develop the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation, aiming to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe, fear God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens".

Education plays an important role in forming quality human resources, education is expected to be able to prepare and improve the quality of human resources as a whole and quality to face challenges in the future and the development of the era, namely the era of society 5.0. The era of society is a collaboration between humans as its center and technology as its basis. Education in the era of society is an educational process that emphasizes human development as creatures who have reason, knowledge and ethics in the era of technological development today.

Therefore, students of SMA Kristen Kalam Kudus were invited to interact directly with Czech University students along with lecturers and several students from the Economic Education Study Program, FKIP UHN Medan regarding students' understanding of economic literacy.

Economic literacy means economic literacy, namely the ability of individuals to recognize and use concepts and ways of thinking about economics to improve and achieve welfare (Murniatiningsih, 2017). Economic literacy can help change individual behavior to be smarter, especially in utilizing income to save, invest, protect and meet life's needs. Economic literacy is the ability to read, write, and think critically and be sensitive to the surrounding environment, and has indicators such as understanding needs, scarcity, economic principles, and economic motives (Kusniawati, 2016). From this statement, it can be concluded that economic literacy is the ability of individuals to understand and use basic economic concepts to make smart decisions.

In principle, economic literacy is a tool to achieve goals, but in reality not all individuals or students have high literacy so they experience difficulties in achieving prosperity, therefore efforts are needed to increase students' economic literacy so that they can manage resources to achieve prosperity.

## Theoretical basis

### a. Economic literacy

The term literacy in the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, literacy is defined as something related to writing. In the current context, literacy or literen has a very broad definition and meaning. Literacy can mean being technologically literate, politically literate, critical thinking and sensitive to the surrounding environment. In simple terms, literacy culture can be defined as the ability to write and read people in a country.

According to Suyono and Hariyanto (2011), literacy is an activity that includes reading and writing as a basis for developing effective and productive learning that allows students to be skilled at finding and processing the information they need. Literacy is inseparable from the world of education. Literacy is a means for students to recognize, understand, and apply the knowledge they gain in school. Literacy is also related to the lives of students, both at home and in their surroundings. In addition, literacy also includes how a person communicates in society. Literacy also means practices and social relationships related to knowledge, language, and culture (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2016).

Economic literacy is defined as a condition that describes a person who can understand basic economic problems well, so that they can carry out economic activities correctly (murniatiningsih 2017). Economic literacy is the ability to understand the meaning of economics, namely about human actions to meet their varied and developing life needs with existing resources. High economic literacy is possessed by economic actors, both consumers and producers, with the aim of allocating limited resources to meet unlimited needs. That way, high economic literacy will turn every challenge and threat into an opportunity so as to bring benefits and benefits for the sustainability of a balanced economy because challenges after challenges will continue to emerge in the era of society 5.0 which is more digital and technology-based. Economic literacy is the ability to understand economic concepts and use them to make smart decisions in everyday life. Good economic literacy skills are very important for developing financial intelligence and achieving long-term financial goals. In today's technological era, you must be able to make decisions and consider carefully because a lot of information is spread quickly. Economic literacy includes an understanding of basic economic concepts, such as inflation, interest, savings, investment, business, and so on. In addition, economic literacy also includes the ability to manage finances wisely, make smart financial decisions, and plan and prepare for a better financial future. By having good economic literacy skills, individuals can avoid bad financial management practices so that they are able to make wiser and more rational financial decisions. In the context of globalization and the increasingly rapid development of information technology, economic literacy skills are becoming increasingly important for individuals to be able to face competition and challenges in economic life. This also has an impact on the world of education, where economic literacy skills are one of the important aspects of the education curriculum. In the context of education, economic literacy is related to students' ability to understand economic concepts and apply them in everyday life.

### b. Economic literacy indicators

Economic literacy is an individual's ability to recognize and use economic concepts and the application of economic thinking to make rational economic decisions.

Indicators for measuring economic literacy According to Nur Solihat (2018:3) a person has economic literacy if he/she has an understanding of needs, Understanding of scarcity, Understanding of economic principles. Understanding of economic motives, Understanding of consumption activities.

#### Understanding of needs

In the world of economics there are levels of fulfillment of the need for goods and services, these levels are desires and needs. Desire is any additional need for goods or services that are considered lacking and want to be fulfilled. Desire is more additional when basic needs have been met and do not have the need to be fulfilled immediately. While needs are all goods or services that humans need to support all activities in daily life. Economic literacy is important for making the right decisions.

#### Understanding of scarcity

The problem of scarcity is always faced, scarcity is a problem of how someone can fulfill many and varied needs with limited means of satisfaction. In dealing with the problem of scarcity, economic literacy plays an important role because the real economic problem is how we are able to balance between unlimited desires and limited means of satisfying needs.

#### Understanding economic principles

Economic principles are divided into three types, namely: consumer economic principles (users), producer economic principles, and seller economic principles. In daily activities, all transactions are inseparable from economic principles, therefore it is necessary to understand the existing economic principles so that you can make the right decisions.

#### Understanding economic motives

Economic motives are the reasons, drives, and activities carried out by a person to demand economic action. Everyone has a need to satisfy their desires with the maximum amount according to their wishes. Fulfilling these desires requires action steps. Actions taken by humans to satisfy their desires can be considered economic actions. A person's actions must have transparent reasons or as a result of a strong urge to demand economic action.

#### Understanding consumption activities

Consumption activities are activities that aim to reduce or deplete the utility value of a good or service in order to meet needs. This is done by humans to meet their needs directly. Every individual and society in general have certain tendencies in consuming.

The tendency to consume is called a consumption pattern. A consumption pattern describes a person's choice of how to use time and money wisely.

#### a. Benefits and objectives of economic literacy

Economic literacy is closely related to everyday life, therefore it is important to make efforts to improve economic literacy in welcoming the era of society. The objectives of economic literacy are:

1. To form students who can understand basic economic problems well and carry out activities efficiently.
2. To provide a better understanding of how the economic system works.
3. To understand and analyze the economic system, including how decisions are made, and how they affect students.

The benefits of economic literacy are:

1. Students can manage economic resources effectively
2. Students can change their behavior in meeting their living needs better.
3. Students can manage their finances better, such as planning savings, making good budgets and controlling debts and loans

#### a. Era Society 5.0

##### Definition of Era Society 5.0

Era society 5.0 is an era that was first started by the Japanese government with a new idea, namely society is centered on humans (human-centered) and always based on technology (technology based) which is based on the cultural customs of society in the era of revolution 4.0. Therefore, to face society 5.0, new ideas are needed in an effort to face the challenges that will occur society 5.0. Therefore, to face society 5.0, new ideas are needed and the instillation of Pancasila values in Indonesian society in an effort to face the challenges that will occur society 5.0 so that Indonesian society is able to maintain Pancasila values but does not fade.

**Purpose of Era Society 5.0** The purpose of this era society 5.0 is to realize a society that truly enjoys life and feels comfortable. With the era of society 5.0, society can solve several challenges and social problems around them by utilizing various innovations and new breakthroughs that have existed in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 such as the Internet of Things (internet for everything), Artificial Intelligence (artificial intelligence such as robots), Big Data (data in large quantities).

Society 5.0 is more directed at artificial intelligence or Artificial Intelligence which can make it easier for humans in the field of technology and will have more ability to do or analyze something using the help of robots, lightening heavy work such as analyzing information on a large scale that can make a job easier. With the presence of the era of society 5.0 as a new innovation from the industrial revolution 4.0, it is the answer for society that technology has a very important role in human survival.

## Implementation Method

### a. Community service design

This activity was carried out by Lecturers and Students from the Economic Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, HKBP Nommensen University, Medan together with students from Czech University. The implementation of Community Service began on July 10, 2024 and ended on July 11, 2024. And previously, socialization had been carried out to teachers of SMA Kristen Kalam Kudus Medan regarding Community Service activities. During the socialization process, the team of lecturers first conveyed the activity plan and asked the school to inform the students where they were as participants in the Community Service activities.

a. Community service steps

The steps taken in this community service are as follows:

1. Preparation stage

- a. Discuss with the Team regarding the design of activities to be carried out in the community service activities.
- b. Establish communication and coordination with the school.
- c. Prepare an activity plan that includes targets, time, and methods to be used.
- d. Prepare the tools and materials needed for the activity.



**Figure 1.** The PkM team provides direction regarding activities

2. Implementation stage

At this stage, what is done is to convey material related to economic literacy and what efforts must be made to improve economic literacy.



**Figure 2.** The PkM Team explains the material on Economic Literacy in welcoming the era of society 5.0

3. Closing stage  
At this stage, a final evaluation of the activities is carried out.



**Figure 3.** PkM Team taking a photo together with teachers and students



**Figure 4.** PkM Team with international speakers



**Figure 5.** PkM Team with international resource persons

- b. Subjects  
The subjects of this International PkM activity are students of the Economic Education Study Program at HKBP Nommensen University, Medan, students at the Czech University and students at Kalam Kudus Middle School, Medan.

## Results and Discussion

- a. Results

Community Service carried out at SMA Kristen Kalam Kudus went well. The implementation of the Community Service activities was carried out for approximately two days. In this case, the provision of knowledge regarding efforts to improve economic literacy for SMA Kristen Kalam Kudus students in Welcoming the Era of Society 5.0.

Based on the results of observations made by the SMA Kristen Kalam Kudus Student Service team, students were very enthusiastic and excited in participating in the activities carried out. The enthusiasm and enthusiasm of the students can be seen when the team together with Czech students delivered material on efforts to improve economic literacy. Enthusiasm and enthusiasm were shown through questions submitted to the team related to economic literacy.

During the implementation of the community service, good responses also came from teachers and principals which can be seen from the time, willingness/opportunity given to the team to carry out community service related to efforts to improve economic literacy. Furthermore, the community service program also showed that the program implemented had a positive impact on increasing knowledge about economic literacy.

#### b. Discussion

Schools must provide a comprehensive curriculum to ensure that students learn economic concepts that are important for everyday life, such as money management, trade, production, consumption, needs, scarcity, economic principles, economic motives, and others.

In schools, teachers can help students understand economic concepts through the use of technology and other resources to deliver materials in an easy-to-understand and enjoyable way. In addition, schools can also provide an environment that supports economic learning, such as the availability of economic literacy books in the library. Schools and families have an important role in learning economics for high school students. Both schools and families can be educational agents that play an important role in helping students understand economic concepts and preparing them to face future economic challenges. Good cooperation between schools and families can help students develop a good understanding of economics and prepare them to face future economic challenges.

In addition to the efforts made by teachers and families to improve students' economic literacy, students themselves can also improve their own economic literacy by using technology such as cellphones.

Through efforts to improve economic literacy, students can understand basic economic concepts such as money management, trade, production, consumption, needs, scarcity, economic principles, economic motives, and others. With this understanding, students will be wiser in managing their own money in the future, avoid excessive debt, and prepare for a better financial future.

Economic literacy can also help in developing critical thinking skills, such as analyzing economic situations, making decisions based on economic considerations, and solving problems involving economic aspects.

In the era of Society 5.0 which is marked by the development of technology and globalization, high school students need to have good economic literacy to face future challenges. With a good understanding of economics, they will be able to adapt to rapid economic changes, take advantage of existing opportunities, and become competitive members of society in the digital era. By increasing students' economic literacy, they will have a strong foundation in understanding and dealing with the economic world around them. In addition, a high level of economic literacy in high school students will also make a positive contribution to economic development and the welfare of society as a whole.

## Conclusion

Economic literacy is not just knowledge about economic concepts, but also about skills that will lead students to think critically in their role as economic actors in society or around them. Improving the economic literacy skills of high school students in the Society 5.0 era is very important to help students understand economic concepts and develop financial intelligence. Interactive and creative teacher teaching strategies, introduction and use of technology in learning, financial management skills training, and awareness of cooperation between schools and families are very influential in efforts to improve students' economic literacy skills.

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