

## ISLAMIC FEFAC AS AN INTERESTING LEARNING MEDIA TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' ENGLISH ABILITY AND DEVELOP THEIR CHARACTER VALUES IN MAN REJANG LEBONG

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### ABSTRACT

The article aims to improve students' English ability and develop character values in MAN Rejang Lebong. The subject of Community Service was 40 (fourty) students from low economic category that studied in MAN Rejang Lebong. The result showed that the service activities have been carried out well and smoothly without any obstacles; this community service showed improvement in students' English ability. It can be seen in the result of pre-test and post-test (65 and 79). Then, this community service is also can develop students' character such as active, independent, brave, responsibility, discussion, polite in the classroom. Students are very enthusiastic in receiving the learning material that has been delivered by the servant; and school plays an active role in supporting the implementation of this community service.

**Keywords:** Islamic FEFAC; media; English ability; character

### INTRODUCTION

Agropolitan City is one of the names for Rejang Lebong Regency. This designation is obtained because most of the area consists of hills, which makes most of its residents work as farmers who produce commodities consisting of various types of vegetables and fruits. Apart from that, Rejang Lebong Regency is also one of the largest districts in Bengkulu Province which has an important role. This is because Rejang Lebong Regency is regency that connects Bengkulu Province with South Sumatra, Jambi, Lampung and West Sumatra Provinces. This district consists of 15 districts, namely as follows: Padang Ulak Tanding, Sindang Beliti Ilir,

Padang City, Selupu Rejang, Bermani Ulu Raya, Sindang Kelingi, Sindang Beliti Ulu, Bermani Ulu, Binduriang, Sindang Dataran, Curup , Curup Selatan, Curup Timur, Curup Utara and Curup Tengah (BPS, 2016) .

Of the fifteen (15) sub-districts, each sub-district has a school that is the center of education in its area. There are various schools located in each sub-district, there are schools based on public schools, such as public and private schools, some are based on religion, such as Islamic boarding schools or madrasahs. Each of these schools has its own advantages and disadvantages. These schools can produce human resources who can develop an area or become an icon by carrying the name of the area. Of the several types of schools that exist, what have attracted attention are madrasah schools. This madrasah school is not too deep into studying religious sciences and Arabic such as Islamic boarding schools and also not too deep into general sciences such as English, Science, Social Sciences, and others like other public schools. The school has more advantages when compared with other public schools, namely in the field of religious side.

Madrasah has several levels such as MIN which is equivalent to SD, MTS which is equivalent to SMP and MAN which is equivalent to SMA. In Rejang Lebong Regency, there are 27 madrasah consisting of 12 MIN or equivalent, 9 MTsN or equivalent, and 6 MAN or equivalent (Interview Results of Staff in the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Rejang Lebong Regency, 2017). But the conditions indicated by educational development in particular madrasah rated lack of competitiveness juxtaposed with the public schools and other boarding schools. This can at least be judged by their ability to use foreign languages such as English. With their religion-based school foundation, they should find it easier to master or use English. However, this is very contrary to existing expectations. Likewise, with mastery of English, very few madrasah students master or are able to communicate using English.

The language proficiency of English students is still very low when compared to general schools and Islamic boarding schools. This is because students in madrasah have difficulty understanding learning and a lack of Arabic and English learning media. Based on preliminary observation data in MAN Rejang Lebong Regency, the data shows that the ability to master English in madrasah-based schools is still lacking (Observation Results of MTsN and MAN, 2017) . This can be seen from the results of the English debate competency that has

been carried out by the Rejang Lebong Regency Education and Culture Office, where all the winners are nominated by students from public schools. None of the madrasah schools won the prize (Interview Results of the Education and Culture Office in Rejang Lebong Regency, 2017). This could be triggered by the low interest of students in learning the language itself. Language learning is considered boring and not really important for them to master. Therefore they are not too interested in learning English.

From the above background, it is the reason for the community service to use Islamic FEFAC as an interesting learning media to improve students' English ability and develop character values in MAN Rejang Lebong. In this community service, the servant is intensively teaching English for MAN students who come from low economy category. Most of the people in Rejang Lebong Regency depend on their livelihoods as farmers. The main commodities in this area are coffee and vegetables (Results of Interview with the Central Statistics Agency, Rejang Lebong Regency, 2017). Low income and inadequate yields have caused many families to be categorized as weak economies. This condition causes many children not to be able to take part in education because their parents do not have money for their education costs. Children who come from economically weak families will not be able to pay additional fees if they wish for tutoring outside of school.

Besides wanting to improve the ability to understand English, the servant also wants to instill character values in students of MAN Rejang Lebong Regency. It is hoped that these character values will minimize the crime rate that occurs to children in this district. Do not let the crime of rape and murder of "Yuyun" happen again, which has shocked this country. Where girls were raped by 14 youths and killed sadistically and not humanly. The killings were because the children were under the influence of alcohol. From this case, servant also wants to emphasize character education in schools. It is not only students' cognitive values that must be put forward, but also students' affective values (Apriani, 2015). Service is also in line with government programs Rejang Lebong to reduce poverty and promote human development level through education.

One way that can be used in improving the value of cognitive and also affective is to use you right media for interesting learning so it is not only enhance cognitive abilities but also instill character of the child is important (Apriani, 2016; Apriani, 2019; Azwandi, et al. 2019;

Syafradin, 2019; Apriani, 2020; Handayani, et al. 2020). The servant used *Islamic FEFAC* learning media to improve the ability to understand English as well as inculcate character values in students of the economically weak category in MAN Rejang Lebong Regency. *Islamic FEFAC* is an interesting learning media where this media that consists of two sides, namely the front side (image) and the back side (the English vocabulary). *Islamic FEFAC* or fun and easy flashcards hopefully can improve children's English vocabulary skills.

*Islamic FEFAC* can improve students' ability in English. Based on the results of Pengabdian Rachmita (2016), it was found that flashcards can improve vocabulary skills for Kindergarten children in Samarinda. Kindergarten students are very interested and excited when the teacher teaches English vocabulary using flashcards. Flashcards are a learning media that is easy to use in the learning process (Rachmita, 2016). Rahmasari (2016) also found that the use of flashcards as a teaching medium for grade 4 students of SDN Sukosari 02 D Perdagangan Malam is effective in improving students' vocabulary skills. Flashcards make an effective contribution to student grades (Rahmasari, 2016).

*Islamic FEFAC as an learning Media* can not only improve students' English skills but can also be used in instilling character values in students. Yonarita et al (2011) found that flashcards can increase motivation and completeness of learning English in grade VA students at SDN 06 Nanga Pinoh in the 2010/2011 academic year. Adityarini (2013) also found that the results of his dedication showed an increase in student motivation by using a quantum learning model with flashcard media. The results of the Community Service also showed an increase in student learning outcomes with the quantum teaching learning model and flashcard media. From the above dedication, it can be said that Flashcards are a learning medium that can be used in instilling character values in children. Motivation is one of the characters contained in the values of the main character of "Mandiri". The main character values are religious, nationalist, integrity, mutual cooperation, and independent.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that *Islamic FEFAC* learning media can make madrasah students more interested and motivated in learning English. This service also emphasizes on Islamic character education which can help the role of the government in increasing the same education for each level without any gaps in the formation of young people who are able to become religious, quality, competent

and competitive human resources and have high character value which is not only in this area but also outside the region.

## METHOD

The subject of Community Service was 40 (fourty) students from low economic category that studied in MAN Rejang Lebong. The schedule of the Community Service entitled “*Islamic FEFAC as an interesting learning media to improve students’ English ability and develop character values in MAN Rejang Lebong*” are as follows:

**Table 1. Schedule of Community Service Activities**

Activities	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Writing proposal and Submitting Proposal									
Seminar Proposal									
Preparation of Community Service									
Implementation of Community Service									
Final Report									

**Table 2. Schedule of Service Activities in MAN Rejang Lebong Regency**

No	Hari	Pukul	Tempat	Bulan				Total Pertemuan
				1	2	3	4	
1	Sabtu	08.00-11.30	MAN	4	4	4	4	16 kali
Total Keseluruhan				16 kali pertemuan				

Personnel involved in the Community Service entitled “*Islamic FEFAC as an interesting learning media to improve students’ English ability and develop character values in MAN Rejang Lebong*” are as follows:

**Table 3. Personnel Involved**

No.	Name	Scientific Qualifications
1	Sarwo Edy M.Pd.	English lecturer
2	Jumatul Hidayah, M.Pd.	English lecturer
3	Eka Yanuarti, M.Pd.	Lecturer of Islamic Religious Education
4	Via Armu Manangsa	English Study Program Student
5	Septi Dedek Kendiani	English Study Program Student
6	Khoiri B	Alumni of English Education Study Program
7	Ana Zulaiha	Alumni of English Education Study Program

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The IAIN Curup Lecturer Community Service Activity (PKM) entitled “*Islamic FEFAC as an interesting learning media to improve students’ English ability and develop character values in MAN Rejang Lebong*” was hold on July 8 2019-19 October 2019. This activity is hold at MAN Rejang Lebong every Saturday starting from 08.00 to 11.30. The number of participants in this community service is 40 students. Learning activities run well and without any obstacles. Students are enthusiastic in receiving learning material. The school is also very helpful in the implementation of this service activity. The activities that have been carried out by the servant are as follows:

**Table 5. Activities That Have Been Implemented in MAN Rejang Lebong**

No.	Date and time	Activities
1.	Thursday / 16 May 2019	Coordination with the School
2.	Wednesday / 29 May 2019	Coordination with the School
3.	Saturday / June 08	Coordination with the School
4.	Wednesday / 26 June 2019	Coordination with the School
5.	Wednesday / July 03 2019	Pre-test
6.	Monday / 29 July 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
7.	Monday / 12 August 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
8.	Wednesday / 28 August 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
1.	Tuesday / September 10, 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
2.	Saturday / 28 September 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
3.	Wednesday / 09 October 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
4.	Tuesday / 29 October 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
5.	Thursday / 07 November 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
6.	Friday / 22 November 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
7.	Monday / 02 December 2019	Learning English and Developing Character Values using FEFAC Media
8.	Tuesday / December 10 2019	Post-Test





**Figure 1. Implementation of Community Service Activities**



**Figure 2. Implementation of Community Service Activities**

From the results of the pretest and posttest that have been given by the servant, it can be seen that there is a significant effect of increasing the students' pretest and posttest scores in learning English and also planting character values. The students mean score in pretest and posttest were 65 and 79. Students also more active, independent, brave, responsibility, discussion, polite when they studied in the classroom. This Community Service activity not only provides free tutoring for underprivileged children but also helps the school within the limited facilities and infrastructure in learning, especially in learning English. The equipment provided by servant in helping facilities and infrastructure in MAN Rejang Lebong Regency is in the form of

Portable Speakers.



**Figure 3. Give the Facility for MAN Rejang Lebong**

### **CONCLUSION**

From the dedication activity " *Islamic Fefac* as an attractive learning medium to improve the ability to understand English and to develop character values in students of the weak economic category in MAN Rejang Lebong Regency " that has been implemented, the servant can draw the following conclusions:

1. The service activities have been carried out well and smoothly without any obstacles;
2. This community service showed improvement in students' English ability. It can be seen in the result of pre-test and post-test (65 and 79).
3. This community service is also can develop students' character such as active, independent, brave, responsibility, discussion, polite in the classroom. Students are very enthusiastic in receiving the learning material that has been delivered by the servant;
4. School is play an active role in supporting the implementation of this community service;



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