



Improving Students' Communication Skills of Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School, Kampung Yarang, Pattani Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Lack of courage and confidence to speak can have a significant negative impact. Communication skills are one of the important elements that must be possessed by every individual today, this is because as the times and the world of education develop, improving students' communication skills has an important role in preparing them to face future challenges. Therefore, to overcome this, one of the steps that can be taken is to improve students' communication skills so that they can have the confidence and courage to speak in front of the class or in public, and improve their ability to provide and disseminate information, ideas, and thoughts. The goal of improving Communication Skills is carried out in the framework of the International Community Service Activity program in collaboration between the Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Lhokseumawe and Ar-raniry State Islamic University (UIN Ar-raniry) Banda Aceh. This activity was carried out in one of the schools and boarding schools in the city of Pattani, Thailand.

Introduction

Communication skills are one aspect of social skills that are important in society and individual life. In a world that continues to develop, the ability to communicate is one of the successes in various fields of life, including education. This is in line with the statement of Jory (2007) that education is an important investment and has a strategic role for the realization of human resources to shape the mindset of citizens so that they can develop themselves and build something new in the future. One of the self-development that can be continuously developed is the ability to communicate (Surya, 2007).

In the education life, improving communication skills of students has an essential role to prepare them to face challenges in the future. Communication skills are important for preparation for the working life. Students who can convey ideas clearly and effectively, both orally and writing, have an advantage in the world of work. In addition, the communication process involves critical thinking. Students need to analyze information, construct arguments, and convey ideas logically. Therefore, these communication skills are important in preparing students for academic challenges and everyday life (Girsang, 2018).

Furthermore, good communication skills help students build and maintain healthy social relationships. The ability to listen well, understand others' points of view, and speak respectfully helps create a positive social environment. In addition, communication skills can improve students' presentation skills. Students when in school or continuing their education to a higher level often have to make presentations in front of the class or group. Good communication skills help students deliver presentations confidently and effectively (Kesuma, 2017).

Good communication also plays an important role in problem solving. Students need to be able to communicate problems, identify possible solutions, and cooperate with others to achieve desired results. Through communicating, students can also develop an understanding of themselves. The process of speaking and listening helps students explore their personal values, interests and goals. More than that, effective communication helps students understand learning materials well. Through class discussions, questions, and interactions with teachers and peers, students can explore deeper understanding. Overall, communication skills help students prepare for the challenges that exist in the world of work and personal life. Therefore, improving communication skills in students is a very relevant goal (Nurokhmanti et al., 2022).

According to [Fitrananda et al. \(2018\)](#) a person's public speaking skills are influenced by two main supporting factors, namely internal and external. Internal factors are all the potential that exists within the person, both physical and non-physical, physical factors concerning the perfection of the organs used in speaking. While external factors such as level of education, habits, and social environment.

In addition, according to [Effendy \(2011\)](#) communication is the process of delivering messages by one person to another to inform or change attitudes, opinions, and behaviors, either directly or orally, or indirectly through the mass media. The definition of communication ability is also expressed by [Purwanto \(2006\)](#) which states that communication ability is the level of skill in delivering messages by one person to another to inform and change attitudes, opinions or behavior as a whole either directly orally or indirectly.

From some of the concepts above, it can be concluded that communication skill is an ability and courage to convey information that contains messages, ideas, or ideas to others either directly or indirectly. The delivery of information from communicators to communicants can be done with various symbols, either in the form of numbers or words.

The Pattani region of Thailand, is a province where the majority of the population is Muslim and of Malay ethnicity. The name "Pattani" comes from the former sultanate of Pattani, which was founded in 1390 and taken by force of land by Siam in 1902. Pattani has a rich history in Islamic education. Traditional Islamic schools or pesantren can be found, which apply a teaching approach centered on Islamic values. One of them is Phitaksad Vittaya Mulniti School located in Bekual Village, Yarang-Pattani, Thailand. This school is one of the institutions that aims to create students who are independent individuals and have the knowledge and skills to face future challenges.

To achieve this goal, courage and self-confidence are needed from each student. There are many problems that occur regarding the lack of courage and self-confidence of students, as well as those that occur in Phitaksad Vittaya Mulniti School students. ([Mulkiyan, 2017](#)) states that self-confidence is a factor in one's success. Self-confidence can foster positive feelings in oneself so that it is expected to be able to have strong beliefs, not have doubts and be able to control oneself well ([Mulkiyan, 2017](#)). Self-confidence is inseparable from courage. These two elements must be present in every student today. If you do not have self-confidence and courage, then the student does not have confidence in yourself so that it can hinder future actions and behavior.

In the learning process, of course, communication is needed, both communication that takes place between teachers and students or communication that occurs between students. Communication is an important aspect of learning to channel information, knowledge, or opinions both visually and non-visually. Self-confidence is indeed one of the most determining factors in communication ([Susilo, 2020](#)). According to ([Rakhmat, 1989](#)) people who lack confidence will tend to avoid communication situations. In order not to become a person who lacks confidence and is difficult to communicate, it is hoped that school students will continue to practice to increase their confidence so that they can communicate smoothly. Therefore, the purpose of this service is to increase courage and improve communication skills in Phitaksad Vittaya Mulniti School students.

Method

During the International Community Service Lecture (KPM) in Thailand, a collaboration between Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Lhokseumawe and Ar-raniry State Islamic University (UIN Ar-Raniry) Banda Aceh, the method used in this effort to improve communication skills is the verbal communication method. This method is believed to help raise awareness about the importance of communication skills for students in the school by holding discussions and socialization.

In the process, the service team consisting of two female students from IAIN Lhokseumawe provided training to approximately 25 students, most of whom were female. The team arrived at the location on June 25, 2023, then gathered with the students who were also santriwati in that place.

The method of implementing community service activities to improve communication skills in students of Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School, Kampung Yarang, Pattani Thailand is carried out through the following stages of implementation:

1. **Socialization**

The socialization method is an approach designed to help students develop communication skills, understand communication values and interact with others effectively. Socialization activities are carried out in stages: holding an introduction and socialization of the importance of communication skills in this day and age. In this exposure session, the students were given material about the importance of having communication skills. Furthermore, conducting simulations or role playing to help students practice communication.

2. **Discussion**

The team held a discussion and question and answer session to discuss communication skills as well as identify what problems underlie the students' lack of courage in communicating.

Doing a discussion after a socialization is a form of strategy to see the extent of the students' abilities and what problems they experience in the context of communication. This service activity was carried out in two stages, namely socialization and discussion. This socialization and discussion took place for three consecutive days from 25 to 27 June 2023 in two different places namely Ma'had and School.

Result and Discussion

The purpose of this service is to improve communication skills in Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School students so that they are better prepared to compete and face the challenges of future developments where everything requires good communication skills. After conducting a series of efforts to improve communication skills through socialization and discussion in Bekual tree village, Yarang, we get the following results:

Introductions and socialization of the importance of communication skills

From doing the socialization to the students of Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School, and Ma'had 'ilmi Al-Islami, which is mostly attended by women, it shows that these students still lack knowledge about the importance of learning communication skills. In addition, these students hope to learn how to improve communication skills, especially for students who want to continue to college.

This is in accordance with what is conveyed by the Directorate of Research and Community Service of the University of Indonesia (2011: 4), community service or community service activities are activities that include efforts to improve the quality of human resources, among others, in terms of broadening insight, knowledge and improving skills carried out by the academic community as a manifestation of dharma bakti and a form of concern to play an active role in improving welfare and empowering the wider community, especially for economically weak communities.



Figure 1. Introduction and socialization

1. Forum Group Discussion

After doing the discussion, it is also known that the students have several obstacles when they want to communicate. One of which is the lack of courage to speak in public, they claim to be very nervous and not confident to speak in public. The problem of lack of courage to speak in public is based on the reason that they are not accustomed to appearing in public, thus causing a sense of insecurity.

From the results of the introduction and discussion, it is also known that the students of Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School and Ma'had ilmi Al-islami have great potential if they can apply communication skills well. This is one of the reasons why communication skills need to be improved in these schools.

Communication skills are core skills throughout life, even if students have learned communication skills in their education, adequate training for continuous professional development is still needed. Having the ability to communicate in public has become an absolute necessity. Communication skills do not recognize gender, position, and students are no exception. The ability to communicate in front of the public must indeed be strived for by the community, especially a student to hone the mentality and courage to speak in public (Ngalim, 2014).



Gambar 2. Discussion with students of Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School and Ma'had ilmi Al-islami

2. Practice of Public Speaking Approach

After analyzing the problems and obstacles faced by the students in the previous discussion and socialization process, the next step is to approach and practice directly. This approach resulted in a positive impact on the students. With this approach before the practice, the students became easier to compromise with in order to have the courage to perform in public.

Public speaking is known as a means of delivering messages in front of the public. Public speaking itself is part of the science of communication. In today's world, public speaking is one of the important things and is always needed, it is caused by the rapid development of the times and technology that indirectly forces each individual to be able to compete in improving their quality. According to (Lucas, 1989), public speaking is an audience-centered process in a rhetorical situation consisting of speaker, audience, and opportunity and guided by urgency.



Figure 3. Practice of *public speaking*

Conclusion and Suggestions

The existence of Community Service Activities (KPM) in Kampung Bekual, Yarang, Pattani Thailand really helps students to build a leadership spirit and be able to socialize with the surrounding community. As well as helping students to understand and always continue to appreciate cultural and environmental diversity.

Based on the results of KPM activities through socialization and discussion, it can be concluded that efforts to improve communication skills are needed for students at Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School and Ma'had 'ilmi Al-Islami. This is because most of them claim to lack courage and confidence in communicating. On average, they have good potential. It's just that they need efforts to apply communication skills better and more consistently. The results of this service activity through socialization and discussion in improving communication skills: the students of Phitaksad Vitayya Mulniti School and Ma'had 'ilmi Al-Islami began to be able to fight their fear and lack of confidence to speak in public. This is done to foster courage and improve good communication skills for students for the future. Suggestions that can be given are that service activities like this continue to be carried out. The school can also provide understanding and routines in any form to students or continue similar things to help improve communication skills in students at the school.

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