



## Papuan Women Community Empowerment through Coconut Derivative Product Training in Kampung Payum, Merauke

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**Abstract:** *The Papuan Indigenous People in Payum Village, Merauke, who are mostly fishermen, face economic challenges due to the impact of climate change which has the potential to reduce fish catches. On the other hand, women in this village have not been actively involved in potential economic activities. The strategy to overcome these challenges is to conduct training in making coconut derivative products, such as body butter, solid soap, body scrub, and lip balm. This training aims to empower the community, especially women, by improving their skills in utilizing the abundant potential of coconuts to create value-added business opportunities. The results of the training showed success in improving the understanding and skills of the participants. The participants, under the guidance of expert speakers from Makassar, succeeded in producing various coconut derivative products according to standards. In addition, this training also facilitated the formation of women's business groups as a strategic step in community empowerment in Payum Village. With further assistance, this activity is expected to be able to create economic independence for the community and become a model of empowerment based on local potential to deal with the impacts of climate change.*



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### Introduction

The Papuan Indigenous People in Payum Village, the majority of whom work as fishermen, have an important role in maintaining local social and economic sustainability. However, to improve their welfare, empowerment based on local potential is needed that can provide added economic value, especially for groups that have so far been less actively involved, such as women. Currently, women in Payum Village do not have economic activities that have developed significantly. In fact, women's involvement in

economic activities can be the main driver in improving the standard of living of families and communities. The absence of potential businesses means that this group has not been able to contribute optimally to local economic development.

In the future, economic challenges in Payum Village are expected to increase, especially if fishermen's incomes decrease due to the impact of climate change. Changes in weather patterns and decreased fish catches can reduce the economic stability of the community, so economic diversification efforts are needed to deal with this possibility<sup>1</sup>. Kampung Payum actually has environmental potential that can be optimized, one of which is the coconut trees that grow well in the residential area. Coconuts have many benefits and can be processed into various derivative products with high economic value. However, this potential has not been utilized optimally by the local community. Business assistance is an important step to increase the capacity and skills of the Kampung Payum community in developing their local potential. With assistance, it is hoped that the community can utilize existing resources to create new business opportunities.

One of the potentials in this area is coconut trees. One form of processing from coconut trees is making coconut oil, this group can and usually makes their own coconut oil. The development training that we want to do here is to conduct training in making coconut oil derivative products. Coconut oil is used as an ingredient for making soap for community economic development<sup>2</sup>. Training in the formulation of aromatherapy solid soap preparations with coconut oil as the base ingredient is also carried out to increase independence<sup>3</sup>. Soap making can also be done with VCO<sup>4</sup>.

Several similar trainings have been conducted previously in several other areas including in Jatinegara<sup>5</sup>, Lendang Nangka Village<sup>6</sup>. These activities are intended to

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<sup>1</sup> I. Mauzrizka and S. Adiwibowo, "Strategi Adaptasi Nelayan Menghadapi Dampak Perubahan Iklim," *Jurnal Sains Komunikasi Dan Pengembangan Masyarakat* 4 (2021): 567-578, <https://doi.org/10.29244/jskpm.v5i4.7>; Y. Reawaruw and T. Prabawa, "Strategi Adaptasi Nelayan terhadap Dampak Perubahan Iklim di Pulau Liki Kabupaten Sarmi, Provinsi Papua," *Kritis* XXXII, no. 1 (2023): 24-42

<sup>2</sup> S. P. Lestariningsih, E. Ramadhani, D. Destiana, and S. D. Azahra, "INOVASI SABUN BERBAHAN MINYAK KELAPA SEBAGAI UPAYA PENGEMBANGAN EKONOMI KREATIF," *Jurnal Masyarakat Mandiri* 8, no. 3 (2024): 145-156, <https://doi.org/10.31764/jmm.v8i3.23173>

<sup>3</sup> M. Saputri, N. F. Zebua, S. H. Lubis, and N. Karima, "Pelatihan Formulasi Sediaan Sabun Padat Aromaterapi Dengan Bahan Dasar Minyak Kelapa Bagi Siswa/I Smk Kesehatan Galang Insan Mandiri Binjai - Sumatera Utara," *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Tjut Nyak Dhien* 1, no. 2 (2022): 60-68, <https://doi.org/10.36490/IPMTND.V1I2.301>

<sup>4</sup> S. A. Wulansari, L. Sa'diyah, and V. A. Devianti, "Penyuluhan Pemanfaatan VCO Dan Pelatihan Pembuatan Sabun Padat Organik," *Jurnal Masyarakat Madani Indonesia* 3, no. 1 (2024): 49-55, <https://doi.org/10.59025/js.v3i1.183>

<sup>5</sup> E. Yunita, P. Astuti, and M. Amin, "Pengolahan Kelapa dan Diversifikasi Produknya Dalam Upaya Pemberdayaan dan Peningkatan Pendapatan Masyarakat Jatinegara Kabupaten Tegal," *JOMPA ABDI: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 2, no. 1 (2023): 21-29

<sup>6</sup> I. F. Danasari, N. L. S. Supartiningsih, W. Wuryantoro, T. Sjah, S. Maryati, and D. Anjani, "Pelatihan Pembuatan Sabun Natural Sebagai Diversifikasi Produk Minyak Kelapa Kwt Al-Ummahat Desa Lendang Nangka," *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat Nusantara* 5, no. 2 (2024): 2116-2122,

empower and increase community income. Another activity carried out by (Mendrofa et al., 2024)<sup>7</sup> was carried out in Pearung Village with coffee soap making training. Other soap making training was also carried out in Baktiseraga Village<sup>8</sup>, and also Arisan Jaya Village, West Pemulutan District<sup>9</sup>.

Systematic and ongoing training is also needed to improve the skills of the community, especially women, in processing coconut potential into value-added products. This not only increases family income but also strengthens the economic resilience of the community as a whole. This activity aims to provide training to the people of Kampung Payum in making coconut derivative products, such as body butter, solid soap, body scrub, and lip balm. With this training, it is hoped that the community, especially women, will be able to develop coconut-based businesses independently, thereby creating economic independence and sustainable prosperity.

## Method

The approach used in this community service uses a combination of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and training methods. The Asset Based Community Development approach is a method of community empowerment based on existing potential, rather than focusing on problem solving while the training method is used as an effort to improve skills<sup>10</sup>. The Asset Based Community Development approach is carried out by the team to identify the potential possessed by the community<sup>11</sup>. This approach aims to identify and utilize the potential that already exists in the community as a basis for further development. While the training approach is used to provide skills tailored to the needs and experiences of the participants. This technique involves providing materials, direct practice, and ongoing assistance to ensure effective implementation.

The steps of community service in this coconut derivative product training activity are carried out through three main stages, namely preparation, implementation, and

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<https://doi.org/10.55338/JPKMN.V5I2.3115>

<sup>7</sup> J. Mendrofa, T. Pasaribu, and A. Pasaribu, "Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa Pearung Melalui Pelatihan Pembuatan Sabun Kopi dan Kewirausahaan," *Jurnal Pengabdian Dan Ekspansi Nusantara 2* (2024): 89-95

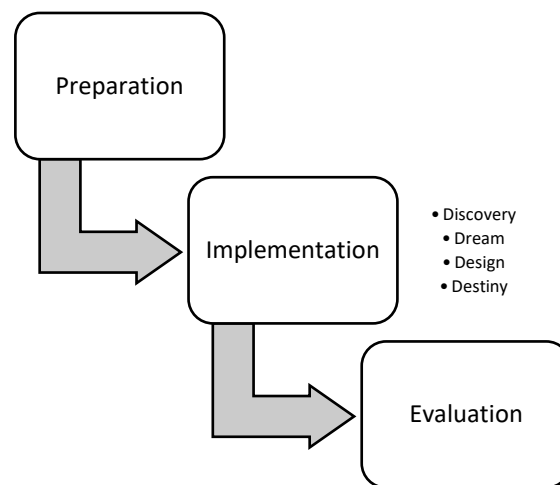
<sup>8</sup> N. Saraswati, I. Sastrawidana, and I. Riawan, "Edukasi dan Pelatihan Pembuatan Sabun Organik Padat Menggunakan Proses Panas di Desa Baktiseraga," *Proceeding Senadimas Undiksha* (2021): 1174-1180

<sup>9</sup> U. Rosidah, K. Yulianti, E. Lidiasari, G. Priyanto, A. Wijaya, and H. Hermanto, "Pelatihan Teknologi Pembuatan Sabun Padat Transparan Dari Minyak Kelapa Di Desa Arisan Jaya, Kecamatan Pemulutan Barat," *Journal of Community Service* 5, no. 1 (2023): 33-42

<sup>10</sup> G. Arsyad, R. P. Anto, T. K. Harahap, H. Rasjid, et al., "Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Ditinjau Dari Berbagai Aspek," (Penerbit Tahta Media, 2023): 23-45, <http://tahtamedia.co.id/index.php/issj/article/view/378>.

<sup>11</sup> M. M. Al-Kautsari, "Asset-Based Community Development: Strategi Pengembangan Masyarakat," *Empower : Jurnal Pengembangan Masyarakat Islam* 4, no. 2 (2019): 259-278, <https://doi.org/10.24235/EMPOWER.V4I2.4572>

evaluation. The preparation stage includes identification and data collection through an initial survey to determine the number of participants, their needs, and field conditions in Kampung Payum. In addition, coordination was carried out with resource persons, namely Eka Wulansari, an expert in making coconut derivative products, and Kurniawan Qadri who will provide material on product marketing. Preparation of facilities and infrastructure is also an important part, such as the provision of coconut raw materials, processing tools, and other supporting equipment. To ensure active participation of the community, especially women in Kampung Payum, direct socialization and discussions were carried out with local community leaders.



*Figure 1. Flowchart*

The implementation stage of the activity lasted in two days. On the first day, the activity began with an opening by the community service team and local community leaders, followed by an introduction to basic theories about the benefits of coconut and market opportunities for its derivative products. Next, the resource person gave a demonstration of making products such as body butter and solid soap, which was then followed by direct practice by participants under the guidance of the team and resource person. The second day continued the practical session with a demonstration of making other products, namely body scrub and lip balm, as well as deepening the participants' skills. In addition, group discussions were held to prepare business plans and marketing strategies based on coconut products. This activity was closed with the distribution of certificates to participants.

The evaluation stage aims to assess the effectiveness of the training by measuring the understanding and skills of participants through the results of the practice that has been carried out. In addition, the community service team also collected input from participants as evaluation material to improve the quality of training in the future. With this method, it is hoped that training activities can provide real benefits for the people of Kampung Payum, especially in improving skills and business opportunities based on coconut derivative products.

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## Result

### *Discovery*

Discovery, focused on identifying the strengths and best potentials within Payum Village. It was found that the village has abundant, high-quality coconut resources, along with traditional skills in coconut processing passed down through generations. There is also a growing community awareness regarding the value of natural and environmentally friendly products. Moreover, the strong sense of togetherness and cooperation in the village serves as valuable social capital to support this initiative.

The discovery phase centred on identifying the core strengths and latent potential within Kampung Payum. This process was conducted through a series of community meetings, collaborative group activities, and direct observation of individual skills in resource processing. A total of 18 women from the village actively participated, demonstrating a strong commitment to local development and inclusive engagement. Community animators noted a high appreciation for environmentally sustainable resources, a deeply rooted culture of mutual support, and the presence of robust social capital all of which serve as critical foundations for advancing local economic initiatives.

### *Dream*

The community and facilitators envisioned the ideal future of coconut development. The shared vision included the establishment of a local women's enterprise group that produces natural coconut soap as a flagship product of Payum Village. This product is expected to gain recognition not only locally but also regionally, with the potential to expand to eco-friendly export markets. This vision also includes the creation of new economic opportunities, especially for women and youth in the village.

Together, the community and facilitators envisioned an ideal future for Kampung Payum, anchored in sustainable development and cultural identity. Central to this vision is the establishment of a local enterprise group dedicated to producing natural coconut soap as the village's flagship product. This item not only embodies the unique identity of Kampung Payum but also holds promise for expansion into related products, such as virgin coconut oil. With 18 women leading the initiative, the enterprise is expected to generate new economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth, while positioning the village as a model of creative, resource-based entrepreneurship.

### *Design*

The Design phase involved the planning of ideal strategies, systems, and structures. Training programs on coconut derivative products production were proposed as the first step to build local capacity. The training on making coconut derivative products held on November 5-6, 2024 in Payum Village, Merauke, went well and according to the designed method. This activity not only involved local women but also succeeded in attracting the interest of prospective members of the women's business

group that will be formed in the village with total 29 participant. The participants attended enthusiastically and showed high enthusiasm to learn how to process coconut potential into value-added products. The thorough preparation stage contributed greatly to the smooth running of the training. All the materials and tools needed had been provided before the training began, so there were no significant technical obstacles during the activity. The expert speakers who were invited also provided clear and systematic directions, from theoretical explanations to direct practice.



*Figure 2. Preparation Meeting*

On the first day, participants were invited to understand the potential of coconut as an abundant raw material in Payum Village. The speakers explained various business opportunities that can be developed from coconut derivative products, such as body butter and solid soap. Participants were then invited to directly practice making the two products, with step-by-step guidance from the speakers.



*Figure 3. The condition in the First Day Training*

The second day focused on the introduction and practice of making additional products, namely body scrub and lip balm. The resource person provided a detailed recipe that can be used as a guide by participants in the future. The participants showed good ability in following each stage of product making from preparing ingredients, processing, to packaging. One of the main successes of this activity was the active involvement of participants in each practical session. They not only practiced the techniques taught but also discussed with the resource person to understand the possibility of innovation in the resulting product. This shows great potential for the

development of coconut-based businesses in Kampung Payum.



Figure 4. The condition in the Second Day Training

The resource person also provided important tips related to managing small businesses, including how to maintain product quality, marketing strategies, and financial management. This information is very helpful for participants in understanding the business aspects of the products they produce. The formation of women's business groups began through discussions at the end of the training. Participants who attended showed great interest in joining and committed to developing coconut-based businesses in groups. This initiative is expected to be the first step for women's empowerment in Kampung Payum.

The evaluation carried out showed satisfactory results. Most participants were able to produce products that met the standards taught by the resource person. In addition, participants also feel confident in applying their newly acquired skills in their daily lives and in starting small businesses. This activity succeeded in increasing participants' awareness of the importance of economic diversification in facing challenges such as declining fishermen's catches due to climate change. Participants also realized that utilizing the abundant potential of coconuts can be a sustainable economic solution for village communities.

Table 1. Pretest and Posttest Result

No.	Indicator of Understanding	Average Pretest Score (out of 100)	Average Posttest Score (out of 100)
1	Identifying quality coconut as raw material	50	88
2	Knowledge of oil extraction and preparation	42	83
3	Soap formulation and mixing techniques	38	80
4	Safety and hygiene in the soap-making process	40	82
5	Soap curing and packaging procedures	36	78

Support from community leaders and local government was one of the factors that drove the success of this activity. Their presence during the activity provided additional motivation for participants to seriously follow the training and use the knowledge gained as the first step towards economic independence. From this training, the need for further assistance was identified to ensure the implementation of the training results in the field. Participants hope that there will be monitoring and consultation sessions that can help them overcome obstacles that may be faced in running a business.

### ***Destiny***

The products produced during the training received a positive response from participants and those present. This is an indication that with a little development, this product has a great chance of being accepted in the local and regional markets. Through this activity, skills training not only provides economic benefits, but also increases the self-confidence of women in Kampung Payum. They now have new skills that can be an alternative source of livelihood. Overall, this training activity successfully achieved its stated objectives. In addition to providing technical skills, this activity also motivated participants to work together in forming business groups. The potential of Kampung Payum now has a great opportunity to be further developed through ongoing cooperation.

The next phase focus on sustainable implementation and continuous improvement. Community members were encouraged to actively participate in production, marketing, and business management. Regular evaluations would ensure product quality and allow for innovation, including the development of other value-added products such as body butter, coconut oil, and lip balm. Ongoing capacity building and financial literacy training were planned to strengthen local entrepreneurship, and a market feedback system would be established to ensure adaptability and long-term sustainability.

### **Discussion**

The training program on coconut-based cosmetic product development for Indigenous Papuan women in Payum Village aims to empower the local economy by utilizing local resources. This initiative adopts the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach and hands-on skills training, emphasizing the use of coconut as a key ingredient in producing high-value cosmetic products such as body butter, solid soap, body scrub, and lip balm. This approach based on the potential of the community not the problem faced by the community<sup>12</sup>. The training follows an andragogical approach, which

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<sup>12</sup> A. R. Fitrianto, E. R. Amaliyah, S. Safitri, D. Setyawan, and M. K. Arinda, "Pendampingan dan Sosialisasi pada Usaha Toko Kelontong dengan Metode ABCD (Asset Based Community Development)

emphasizes learning through direct experience. This method has proven effective in enhancing participants' skills<sup>13</sup>. The training not only provides theoretical knowledge about the benefits and market potential of coconut-based cosmetics but also enables participants to practically create the products. Moreover, engaging experts in the field strengthens knowledge transfer and skill acquisition.

This initiative has led to several notable achievements. First, participants have significantly improved their skills. They have gained both theoretical insights and practical experience in producing coconut-based cosmetic products. This hands-on training allows them to understand the entire process, from raw material selection to final product formulation. Second, the program optimizes local resources. Before the training, coconuts in Payum Village were primarily used for daily consumption or sold in raw form at low economic value. Through this program, participants learned how to process coconuts into value-added products for commercial purposes. This transformation enhances the economic potential of coconut farming in the village. Third, the program contributes to women's economic empowerment. By acquiring new skills, women in Payum Village now can establish community-based businesses, contributing to household income growth and strengthening their role in community decision-making. This aligns with the broader goal of promoting gender equality and financial independence for women in rural areas.

Despite its success, the training program also faces several challenges. One of the major challenges is sustaining participants' motivation. While enthusiasm was high during the training, maintaining long-term engagement in practicing the acquired skills remains a concern. The Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach emphasizes continuous community-driven empowerment<sup>14</sup>. Without proper follow-up support, there is a risk that the newly acquired skills may not be applied effectively. To address this, regular mentoring and refresher training sessions should be introduced. Another challenge is the diverse learning pace among participants. Some participants grasped product-making techniques quickly, while others required more time. This suggests that more adaptive training methods, such as individual or small-group mentoring, should be implemented to accommodate different learning speeds. By personalizing the learning process, every participant can develop confidence and mastery in product-making.

Despite these challenges, the program has delivered significant benefits to the Payum Village community, particularly for women entrepreneurs. Acquiring these skills allows them to build sustainable businesses that contribute to their financial

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Sebagai Upaya Pemberdayaan Ekonomi dan Peningkatan Literasi Usaha Toko Kelontong," *Jurnal Abdidas* 1, no. 6 (2020): 579-591, <https://doi.org/10.31004/abdidas.v1i6.120>

<sup>13</sup> L. Wahyuni, *Pendidikan Orang Dewasa (Andragogi)* (Universitas Brawijaya Press, 2020): 78-92

<sup>14</sup> M. Kamelia and S. W. Pawhestri, "Pemberdayaan Petani Karet Desa Adi Mulyo Dengan Pendekatan Asset-Based Community Development," *JMM (Jurnal Masyarakat Mandiri)* 5, no. 6 (2021): 3288-3300, <https://doi.org/10.31764/JMM.V5I6.5757>.

independence. This aligns with the concept of Community-Based Enterprises (CBE), which promotes economic and social well-being through community-driven businesses<sup>15</sup>. To ensure long-term success, the program requires post-training support in the form of market access strengthening, advanced training in digital marketing strategies, and the formation of community-based business groups. Establishing sales channels to connect local producers with broader markets is essential for sustaining the business. Advanced training in digital marketing strategies would enable participants to promote their products through social media and e-commerce platforms, increasing visibility and demand. Encouraging participants to collaborate and share experiences in overcoming challenges would also create a strong network for continuous growth and innovation. If these follow-up actions are implemented effectively, Payum Village has the potential to become a recognized hub for coconut-based cosmetic production in the future. By continuously developing this initiative, the village could serve as a successful model for community-based economic transformation, driven by local resources and entrepreneurship.

This training program is based on several relevant theories. The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Theory guides the use of local resources, such as coconuts, as key assets for economic development. The Andragogy Theory supports the hands-on learning approach, which is effective for adult participants gaining practical skills. The program also aligns with the Women's Economic Empowerment Theory by helping Indigenous Papuan women build financial independence through entrepreneurship. In forming community business groups, the initiative reflects the Community-Based Enterprise (CBE) Theory, which emphasizes collective efforts for social and economic benefit.

Before the intervention, coconuts were primarily consumed domestically or sold raw at low prices. Through mentoring and hands-on learning, participants now produce body butter, solid soap, lip balm, and body scrub, cosmetic products with higher market value. This shift demonstrates the ABCD principle of asset optimization, where local resources are reimaged as economic assets

The program has elevated the role of Indigenous Papuan women from passive contributors to active entrepreneurs. This supported by research on reward of the entrepreneurship is increasing incomes and help economic well being<sup>16</sup>. Women now lead production activities, manage group enterprises, and contribute to household income. Framework of empowerment emphasizes access to resources, agency, and achievements<sup>17</sup>. The mentoring process also fostered leadership and confidence,

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<sup>15</sup> G. Arsyad, R. P. Anto, T. K. Harahap, H. Rasjid, et al., "PEMBERDAYAAN MASYARAKAT DITINJAU DARI BERBAGAI ASPEK," (Penerbit Tahta Media, 2023): 23-45, <http://tahtamedia.co.id/index.php/issj/article/view/378>

<sup>16</sup> S. Carter, "The Rewards of Entrepreneurship: Exploring the Incomes, Wealth, and Economic Well-Being of Entrepreneurial Households," *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice* 35, no. 1 (2011): 39-55

<sup>17</sup> S. Mosedale, "Assessing Women's Empowerment: Towards a Conceptual Framework," *Journal of*

enabling women to participate in community decision-making. Participants have begun forming small business groups to collectively produce<sup>18</sup> and market coconut-based cosmetics. These CBEs promote shared ownership, mutual support, and economic resilience<sup>19</sup>. CBEs are vital for sustainable development in rural and Indigenous communities, especially when supported by mentoring and market access<sup>20</sup>.

Through experiential learning<sup>21</sup>, participants gained not only technical skills but also business planning, branding, and digital marketing knowledge. The mentoring approach accommodated diverse learning paces, ensuring inclusive skill development. Participants now understand product formulation, packaging standards, and customer engagement strategies. The program introduced digital marketing concepts, enabling participants to promote their products via social media and online platforms. This has expanded their market reach beyond local buyers. Group mentoring and collaborative production fostered a sense of solidarity among participants. Women shared experiences, supported each other's learning, and co-developed solutions to production challenges. This peer-driven dynamic reinforces the social capital essential for long-term community empowerment.

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*International Development* 17, no. 2 (2005): 243-257

<sup>18</sup> P. Nandamuri and C. H. Gowthami, "The Impact of Household Income on Being a Potential Entrepreneur," *SCMS Journal of Indian Management* 10, no. 3 (2013): 75-85

<sup>19</sup> A. M. Peredo and J. J. Chrisman, "Conceptual Foundations: Community-Based Enterprise and Community Development," in *Entrepreneurial Neighbourhoods* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017): 151-178

<sup>20</sup> H. A. Nikkhah and M. Bin Redzuan, "The Role of NGOs in Promoting Empowerment for Sustainable Community Development," *Journal of Human Ecology* 30, no. 2 (2010): 85-92

<sup>21</sup> K. A. Grant, "Experiential Learning," in *Practical Applications of Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning Methods in Business: High-Impact Teaching Practices in Business Education*, vol. 1 (2025): 91-110

<sup>22</sup> S. Carter, "The Rewards of Entrepreneurship: Exploring the Incomes, Wealth, and Economic Well-Being of Entrepreneurial Households,

<sup>23</sup> S. Mosedale, "Assessing Women's Empowerment: Towards a Conceptual Framework,"

<sup>24</sup> P. Nandamuri and C. H. Gowthami, "The Impact of Household Income on Being a Potential

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## Conclusion

The training activity on making coconut derivative products in Kampung Payum, Merauke, succeeded in achieving its main objective, namely improving the skills of the community, especially women, in processing local potential into value-added products such as body butter, solid soap, body scrub, and lip balm. The training participants showed high enthusiasm and succeeded in following the directions of the expert resource person from Makassar well. In addition to gaining new skills, they were also motivated to form women's business groups as an effort to utilize the results of the training to create sustainable economic opportunities. The people of Kampung Payum were not only economically empowered, but were also encouraged to take the first step in diversifying businesses based on coconut potential. With the support of various parties and further assistance, the results of this training are expected to develop into real businesses that contribute to improving community welfare. This training is a model that shows the importance of empowerment based on local potential in creating community economic independence.

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Entrepreneur,"

<sup>25</sup> A. M. Peredo and J. J. Chrisman, "Conceptual Foundations: Community-Based Enterprise and Community Development,"

<sup>26</sup> H. A. Nikkiah and M. Bin Redzuan, "The Role of NGOs in Promoting Empowerment for Sustainable Community Development,"

<sup>27</sup> K. A. Grant, "Experiential Learning,"

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