

Improving Blentreng village's infrastructure and awareness of its tourism potential

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ABSTRACT

Community Outreach Program is an international program which accommodate Petra Christian University's student to work together with international student to help the villagers to build their village and improve their skill. In this case, our group work at Blentreng Sub-Village, to develop the village as a tourism village. The problem is, that the villagers' lack of awareness of their village's tourism potential. They do not take care of their village and they not keep their village clean and keep throwing garbage in the river. So, our physical programs are the making of some tourist attraction such as photo spot, welcoming gate, etc., and are supported by non-physical programs which can improve villager's skill and awareness of their tourism potential and village cleanliness.

INTRODUCTION

Blentreng is one of Sub-Village in Ngembat Village which is located in Gondang District, Mojokerto Regency. Blentreng Sub-Village borders Jatidukuh Village on the north and on the south, it borders the forest area which also in Ngembat Sub-Village. On the east it borders with horticulture and Dilem Village, and newly done road to Jembul village on the west. Blentreng has 227 families, which mostly are Islamic, but there are 30 Hinduism families and 6 Christian families.



This sub-village have many places as tourism potential, such as, pool, sacred house that used as a parking lot for the tourist, Galuh river and Buthak hill. Blentreng have so many

tourism attraction places, we want to develop the tourism point of Blentreng sub village. As a tourist destination, the places need to have attraction point, so we decided to build a swing near the pool, signs for pool and a welcoming gate for Buthak hill and Galuh river. These projects are our main projects.

Beside of that, the majority of the villagers finished only junior high school and only some of them finished senior high school. They went to elementary school above in Ngembat Sub-Village, because they only have kindergarten in Blentreng. The mural on kindergarten's wall already peeled off, so we want to repaint the wall as well.



LIST OF PHYSICAL PROJECTS

Welcoming Gate



Blentreng village has a natural tourism tour, which is Mount Buthak, which has not been opened to public yet prior to our

departure. We heard that the villagers were planning to open the tourism tour in the near future. Based on that, we thought of building a gate as a landmark and also starting point of the trail to Mount Buthak. It can also serve as photo spot, but mainly as a landmark. We concluded that Mount Buthak has a good potential to attract hikers, but yet to be well-known. So, it needs to be able to attract attention.

Before departure, we were able to make agreement with sub-village chief to help providing the logs we need as well as getting permission to implement this project. The project implementation went well enough. The youth organization helped a lot. Before we ran the project, we had a discussion with the youth organization as a non-physical project. At the discussion, we told the head of the organization about Welcoming Gate project and explain the goal, coincidentally Mount Buthak has been opened for about one week when we were at the village. The head of the organization was the one who opened the tour for public, and he saw the demand was rather high for a gate. In the end of the discussion, he said that he would lend some hands to build the gate. The youths helped us transporting the materials, taught how to make the frame and helped with painting high places.

The gate was built in 4 days with the help of 6 participants and 4 youths. It is located in front of the sacred house, just at the border of the village and the trail. The logs were provided from the villagers while youths lent hands. This project did not have any major difficulties except that we had to change the design because we did not get varnish from Nippon Paint. It was supposed to be varnished to make it more resistant to damage and to make it shiny. As we did not have varnishes, we had to change the wood type that will be resistant to termites and weather. Aside from that, we had to wait longer than expected for the wood to be cut down. The effect was that



we had to postpone the gate project until the last week of staying duration. Also, we changed the location because the original location was too narrow and the ground was not hard enough to hold the pole. In the end, we made the gate and painted it.

Photo spot



Before departure, we also asked for logs from the village chief and explain the benefit of this photo spot. After receiving the permission, we went to the village. Our plan was to build a swing by the river side as a photo spot, but after we arrived at the village and had further discussion with the sub-village chief, we moved the swing to the pool area. The reasons were the ground by the river was not solid and they have not made the river as a public tourism destination yet. We paid some villagers to help us build the swing and to clean the ground area. The workers were especially helpful for tying the rope to the swing and cut down the logs for us.

The swing was built in 4 days. We managed to use a strong wood as the frame so it'll be durable for some years. It was almost the same case with welcoming gate, we could not varnish the wood and had to change locations several times. It seemed that the chiefs in the village had different opinions and unwilling to give in easily. Besides the location and varnish problem, there was also problem regarding the rope. At first, we bought the majority of the materials from Mojokerto but apparently the store did not sell any coir rope. We were forced to postpone the program until we get the rope. In the end, we bought the rope from Surabaya and had Aurel's father delivered it to us. It was hard to make sure that the rope was strong enough to hold a person's weight.



Welcoming Monument



Blentreng is soon to be a tourism village, so we need to make sure the tourists know exactly where Blentreng village is. This welcoming monument was built to mark the village's entrance, so the tourist knew that they have entered Blentreng Sub-Village. We

built the monument using bricks and cement. Actually, a monument has been built in that place, but the monument does not look so good and the ground has already sunk because the previous group of COP did not have enough time to build a foundation for the monument, so we need to build a foundation before rebuilding the monument. We used cement and wires to build the foundation. We mixed 3 parts of sand, 2 parts of gravel and 1 part of cement. After the foundation has been built, we started to build the monument. We mix 3 parts of sand and 1 part of cement for glue the bricks each other.



After we finished building the monument, then we started to plastering the monument. We mixed the same amount of cement and sand as for the adhesive, and we start to plaster the monument so the surface will look smooth. The plaster is not hard enough to make the monument so durable, so we need one more step to make the monument durable. We need to coat the monument using finishing coat, which is only cement and water to make a hard layer. After the last layer dried, we could started paint the monument.



The monument finished in almost 6 days because we need to wait for the cement to be dried, every time we finished one step. We painted the monument using orange and white paint, with colorful triangles mural on the foot. We also wrote greeting on the monument using 6 different language, Indonesian, English, Japanese language, Dutch Language, Korean Language and Chinese Language.



Railing at RT 5's prayer room



Actually, this project is not a tourism project, but we thought that the majority of Indonesian are Muslim, and as a tourism village, they need to provide proper prayer room especially for Muslims. RT 5 already had a prayer room, but the path was made by slippery stones and too steep, so we want to build a railing that helps people passing through the slippery path, especially the elders.

The railing was made by galvanized pipe, with 9 meters length and casted to the ground. We took only 1 day to finish this project, and the railing was used by people as

we expected to make it easier to pass through the path.

Mural and lighting installation at poskamling



Murals and lighting installations at Poskamling are going well. The existing constraints relate to the distribution of primers, so the team must postpone the program implementation date. But the support of the committee team really helped the team to be able to resolve the problem quickly. It was hoped that after the Poskamling was made beautiful and enlightened, the enthusiasm of the residents to maintain the security of the village could increase.



Painting Mural in Kindergarten



Painting mural in kindergarten project started on July 20th, 2019 and finished on July 31st, 2019. The project didn't start well. On the first day we started working, everything was a bit chaotic because in our agenda, there should have been 3 projects to do. In fact, one of the projects couldn't start because the materials came very late, so everybody had to work in this project. This was out of our expectations. Some people kept asking if there were more tools to scrape the wall but we only prepared a few tools. So, there were many complaints and also suggestions in our first project evaluation. But I was glad because after we explained what had actually happened, they managed to understand our situation and supported us.



The next day went pretty well. Until when the paints arrived in our village. That was a mess, because not only they gave us the different type of paints, but also lacked in quantity. So, we had to paint the wall with whatever the paints which had been given to us, made new plans, and made new requests for the paints. We had to stop working in kindergarten for a few days and apologized to other participants for the delay of the project.

When the new requested paints finally came, I was confused and pretty upset because once again they gave us different type of paints. At the time, I was afraid that this project might fail but I had to go on with it. With the help and supports from other participants, the last few days of this project went very well and we had fun together. In the end, we finally managed to finish this project together on time and the result was awesome.

Planting in Kindergarten



Planting in kindergarten project started and finished on July 20th, 2019 and it didn't start well. Everything was a bit chaotic because just like the first day of painting mural in kindergarten project, there should have been 3 projects to do. In fact, one of the projects couldn't start because the materials came very late, so everybody had to work in this project. This was out of our expectations. Some people kept asking what should they do and where to put the plants. I was confused because there were too many people and so many plants to organize. But finally, the plants were planted in the right place and the garden looked so beautiful.



A few days later, we saw some people parked their motorcycles in the garden and crushed the plants. The kindergarten teacher said that some people don't have the awareness to take care of the plants, so some plants were dead and ripped. Therefore, we put some bricks on August 2nd, 2019 to make a barrier for the plants in hope that people would know where they should stop when parking their motorcycles and have more awareness to take care of the plants.

Conclusion

First of all, we feel grateful to be able to finish all of our projects, especially for the

main projects. And we also are grateful for the helps from villagers, without them, we cannot finish the projects well and on time. Even though there are lot of problems both internal and external problems, and there are also many changes, we can solve it well, because of our good teamwork.

We hope our projects, that are photo spot, welcoming gate, etc. will attract more tourists and can increase village's income through tourism development. We wish the villagers willing to look after our projects, so, it can be useful for a long time.

Recommendation

The last field survey is too early, because within 2 months there are lot of changes in the village. We already fixed our programs and kept following up with the head of Blentreng Sub-Village, but there were still lot of changes in the field. We do not mind about small changes, however, in this case the change is too sudden and too drastic that we need to replace the program. And last, please note about the lack of paint stock, do not list items that does not available in the catalog.

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