SMART e-Cons: an effort to Expand Educational Access for Gersik Village Communities

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**ABSTRACT**
The lack of residents’ awareness to advance their study to University in the border area of Jagoi Babang District, West Kalimantan, Indonesia made the pupils around the border area almost less educate or stagnant both in the numbers and quality of their education. There are many residents of the high school age was drop out or did not advance their school to university level. But ironically, almost all resident has android cellphone but it functional as calling and messaging only.

This program offers an alternate solution for local resident to get access of higher education information by using their cellphones. This program called ad SMART e-Cons. This was private service that provide by our team for facilitate the local residents’ curiosity about process in higher education. Most of the local pupils has working as farmer, as cotter so it has been most difficulties for us to gather all of them in one time. Therefore, from 138 families only there are 34 family’s members had been volunteer for this program. And this was reasoning why our team has decided to deliver the SMART e-Cons sheets to their house (all of residents) include volunteer that present in main session.

This program was implemented by using the method of coordination, implementation to reporting. These activities can also contribute to increase information about the importance of education in university which certainly has many entry channels including through scholarships.

This program’s result that 53% resident able to access the link and able to give feedback for the team, 50% able to access the link only, and 100% resident able to give feedback only (doesn’t know to click the link).

Finally, our purpose to give a brief explanation for local residents of Gersik Village about entrances university both in country and overseas university without worries about tuitions fee and sort of kinds.
INTRODUCTION

The world of education is required to adjust to technological developments in improving the quality of education (Budiman, 2017). Basic ability in the use of information technology can solve problems that occur in society (Kurniawan et al., 2018). Lack of information for residents, especially residents who have school-age children, and governments’ programs related to accelerating access to education in the border area will change the community's perspective on the world of education. The dynamic nature of the internet makes it easy to access various life activities including one of them was access to education (Patmanthara, 2012).

In this program, the team raised the issue of education in Gresik Village. This village was located in a border area which of course all access to public facilities is certainly no better than the district capital. The initial thing that needs to be explored to provide a solution is to know the profile of Gersik Village as much as possible. Based on data of BPS Bengkayang 2019, it was known that Gersik Village as the one of the villages of Jagoi Babang District, Bengkayang Regency. From Gersik Village location, it takes about 10-20 minutes to get to the District Center Office (in Jagoi Babang) with average distance of 15 km. Gersik Village has an area of 92 km$^2$ where its territory borders

- Northern: Jagoi Village, Sekida
- South: Seluas District
- East: Jagoi Village
- West: Kumba Village

(BPS Bengkayang, 2019)

This village has a quite large population but the population density was the second smallest after Sinar Baru village (Fig 1 (a)). The village (Gersik_red) also has three levels of welfare in the community welfare after Jagoi and Jagoi Sekida village (Fig 1 (b)). In other words, Gersik Village has become the third largest number of household members whose welfare was minimal.

Based on the data in Fig 1 (b), it has known that as many as 138 households have problems in meeting their needs (belonging to the category of the lowest 40% welfare). If explored further, Fig 2 shown that the productive age group learning from the age of 15-24 years was very large numbers as many 2116 people (20,03%) of the total population of Jagoi Babang sub-district which was 10560 people. This could be an early indication that 138 households belonging to the 3rd highest lowest welfare level in Jagoi Babang were also the 3rd largest contributor to the population of this age group. Therefore, all off high school/ vocational school graduates from Jagoi Babang Subdistrict, especially Gresik Village need to get serious attention related to access in order to be able to promote their education to the higher level of education.

![Fig 1. The General Condition of Gersik village from density and welfare appearance. (Bahasa Indonesia version)](https://example.com/fig1.png)
The team had direct observation to Gersik village to confirms real problems that exist in local resident. There were findings that there is no single institution/ personal person who able to provide university information voluntarily, local residents’ assumption that entering the university must have a lot of money for living cost, tuition fees and many more, and communities’ inability in financial problem. They did not know that many of entrance “paths” to the colleges. They also didn’t know that there are many partly scholarship or fully funded scholarship for S-1(Bachelor) even until doctoral degree program. Therefore, this solution (SMART e-Cons) could offer easier ways to local resident in order to access universities information.

METHOD

This program was implemented by using the method of coordination, implementation to reporting. Those steps as the following:

1. The Coordination Stage is the preparation stage regarding the survey team and presentation team.
   The survey team coordinates with local officials regarding permits to carry out activities. The presentation team also prepares materials along with active links for scholarship access to universities in the country and abroad.

2. The implementation phase is the stage of conducting free electronic consultations (SMART e-Cons) carried out informally through designated teams. The appointed team distributed display material to each community visited and accompanied direct access to the intended scholarship page.

3. The Reporting Phase is feedback from the public who opened access to scholarship services to the service team. Servants will summarize and mark the access / link pages that are addressed by the citizens concerned.

All of these programs were run during the daytime considering the terrain was very heavy, minimal lighting (minimal street lights) as long as pathway to the location, the number of holes/ basins on rocky roads (where the size of the cobblestone was large enough) that threatens the safety of the team if the implementation was carried out at night. The team tried to involve all residents around the team’s inn. However, due to all the limitations of the team, we were only able to take a voluntary sample of 34 households out of a total of 138 households. The main factor is that almost all residents work as farmers or as farm laborers so that they can only be found at night. To facilitate that all residents were able to get the same information as the people present, the team has made flyers / brochures related to the material delivered on the day of implementation and delivered to the homes of residents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the results of this program, it was found that the SMART e-Cons activity was able to make a positive contribution to the community of Gersik Village in Jagoi Babang District. As the outermost region of West Kalimantan, the indicator of program success is certainly adjusted to the conditions of
the community at the service location.

The team distributed SMART e-Cons sheets to residents' houses so that all residents could receive useful information about the importance of education and the path of scholarships at various universities. Our team (in this case, team that consist our student) delivers the SMART e-Cons sheets for local residents directly door to door. Their duties other than deliver sheets, they had asked to the hosts to gather data and accompany the scholarship website/ webpage access so that you can get it to summarize / record important points for the responses of Gersik villagers on scholarship opportunities that has been delivered through this SMART e-Cons program.

![Fig 4. Result of implementing SMART e-Cons (Bahasa Indonesia version)](image)

Based on the SMART e-Cons process, information was obtained that there were over 50% of citizens who were able access the scholarship pages/ links that has been given and able to give feedbacks for our team, and still around 50% of the residents able to open access to scholarship links. Residents who are able to access are asked to convey information to the servant for what has been read. Although it looks awkward, but the essence of the contents of the link/ web is well explained. In addition, all residents (100%) able to provide responses to the team that the information given especially new information was related to opportunities for free study through scholarships.

In accordance with the main goal of our program, it can be said that the SMART e-Cons is capable provide information about the importance of higher education which certainly has many paths including among them through scholarships. The scholarships offered are not only from within country, but also from abroad. Therefore, it is expected that after joining the program This SMART e-Cons, will increase the population of West Kalimantan, especially in the area borders that have college seats. Indirectly, it will improve quality of human resources in the border area.

**CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

A. Conclusion
The SMART e-Cons program is capable give enlightenment to the people of Gresik village so as to raise awareness the importance of education.

B. Suggestion
The local resident of Gersik village expected to be able in usage of smartphones android bases to optimize information related to scholarships at school and university levels.
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