

## School Assistance for Effective Facility Management to Support Quality and Child-Friendly Learning Processes

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### ABSTRACT

*Effective management of school facilities and infrastructure is crucial for supporting the educational process. At SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon, significant challenges exist in optimizing the use and maintenance of existing facilities, primarily due to a lack of knowledge and skills among staff. This community service initiative aimed to provide assistance in improving facility management at the school, ultimately fostering a quality and child-friendly learning environment. The project involved stages of consultation and mentoring, workshops and training, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Results indicated substantial improvements in the knowledge and skills of teachers and staff, enhanced physical conditions of school facilities, a safer and more comfortable environment for students, and increased active participation from the entire school community. These improvements have significant implications for educational administration, supporting more effective leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement. The initiative underscores the importance of continuous professional development, regular maintenance, and stakeholder involvement in creating a sustainable and high-quality learning environment. Future efforts should focus on maintaining these gains and building on successful strategies to support long-term educational goals.*

**Keywords:** facility management; learning environment; educational administration; school community engagement; sustainable education

### INTRODUCTION

Effective management of school facilities and infrastructure is crucial for supporting the educational process. At SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon, there are significant challenges in optimizing the use and maintenance of existing facilities. The lack of knowledge and skills in managing school facilities often leads to suboptimal use and rapid deterioration of these facilities. This situation directly impacts the quality of learning received by students. In an era where education is continually evolving, schools are not only required to provide adequate facilities but also to create a child-friendly learning environment. A child-friendly learning environment is essential for the cognitive and emotional development of students. It is characterized by safety, comfort, and support for the learning process. Unfortunately, SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon faces challenges in meeting the ideal standards of facility management. These challenges necessitate external assistance to enhance the quality of facility management. The World Bank (2019) and the IIEP Learning Portal (2019) emphasize that poor facility management can hinder optimal learning, while well-maintained facilities can significantly enhance educational outcomes. This community service initiative aims to provide assistance to SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon in managing its facilities more effectively and efficiently. By doing so, the school is expected to achieve better management standards, ultimately supporting the creation of a quality and child-friendly learning environment. Effective facility management involves not only maintaining the physical condition of the school but also fostering a culture of care and responsibility among all school members.

The activities include intensive consultation, workshops, and training sessions designed to improve the skills of teachers and staff in managing school facilities. The involvement of the entire school community is also crucial in ensuring the sustainability of these improvements. By engaging students, teachers, and staff in maintaining and caring for the school facilities, a sense of ownership and shared responsibility can be cultivated. Furthermore, effective facility management has long-term benefits for the sustainability of education itself. Well-maintained facilities not only extend their lifespan but also reduce the costs associated with frequent repairs and replacements, thereby easing the financial burden on the school (World Bank, 2019; Brown & Green, 2021). Additionally, a well-kept school environment can boost students' motivation to learn and foster a sense of pride among the school community (Miller, 2021). In conclusion, this community service project is expected to bring about positive changes in the management of facilities at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon. By enhancing the knowledge and skills of school staff and fostering a culture of care and responsibility, the project aims to create a conducive learning environment that supports both the cognitive and emotional development of students.

## **METHOD**

The community service activities were carried out through several stages to ensure comprehensive and effective implementation. The stages included consultation and mentoring, workshops and training, and monitoring and evaluation. Each stage was designed to address specific needs and challenges in the management of school facilities at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon.

### **Consultation and Mentoring**

The initial stage involved intensive consultations with the school's management to understand their current needs and conditions comprehensively. This stage was critical in identifying the specific challenges faced by the school in managing its facilities. The consultations were conducted through several meetings and discussions with the school principal, administrative staff, and teachers. During these consultations, the team gathered detailed information on the current state of the facilities, the management practices in place, and the specific areas requiring improvement. The mentoring aspect focused on providing tailored advice and guidance on best practices in facility management. This included strategies for effective maintenance, optimal use of resources, and long-term planning for facility upgrades. The aim was to equip the school management with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement effective facility management practices.



Figure 1. Location of Community Service Activities

### **Workshops and Training**

Following the consultation stage, a series of workshops and practical training sessions were conducted for the teachers and staff. These workshops were designed to enhance their skills in managing school facilities effectively. The training sessions covered a range of topics, including:

- Providing a comprehensive understanding of the principles and best practices in facility management. This included topics such as preventive maintenance, resource optimization, and sustainability practices.
- Hands-on training in maintaining and managing school facilities. This included practical demonstrations and exercises on repairing and maintaining various types of school equipment and facilities. The training also covered the use of appropriate tools and materials for maintenance tasks.
- Special emphasis was placed on creating and maintaining a child-friendly learning environment. This included strategies for ensuring safety, comfort, and accessibility in the school facilities.

The workshops were interactive, with opportunities for participants to ask questions, engage in discussions, and share their experiences. The training sessions were facilitated by experts in facility management and education, ensuring that the participants received high-quality instruction and support.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The final stage of the community service activities involved ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implemented management practices. This stage was essential to ensure that the new practices were effectively integrated into the school's routine operations and to assess their impact on the overall learning environment. The monitoring process included regular site visits, follow-up meetings, and feedback sessions with the school management and staff. During these visits, the team assessed the condition of the facilities, the effectiveness of the maintenance practices, and the overall impact on the learning environment. The evaluation also included gathering feedback from the teachers, staff, and students to understand their experiences and perceptions of the improvements. The monitoring and evaluation stage aimed to identify any areas that required further support or adjustment and to document the outcomes and lessons learned from the activities. This

documentation was crucial for developing a comprehensive report and providing recommendations for future improvements. By following these structured stages, the community service activities at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon were able to achieve their objectives effectively. The comprehensive approach ensured that the school's management and staff were well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain and improve their facilities, ultimately supporting a quality and child-friendly educational process.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The community service initiative at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon yielded significant improvements across several areas, reflecting the effectiveness of the activities implemented. The following sections elaborate on the key results achieved and their implications.

### **Enhanced Knowledge and Skills**

One of the primary outcomes of this community service was the substantial enhancement in the knowledge and skills of teachers and staff regarding facility management. Through a series of comprehensive workshops and hands-on training sessions, the participants gained a deeper understanding of best practices in maintaining and utilizing school facilities. These training sessions covered theoretical aspects of facility management, including preventive maintenance, efficient resource utilization, and sustainability practices. Additionally, practical skills were developed, enabling the participants to carry out routine maintenance tasks, identify and address facility issues promptly, and utilize appropriate tools and materials (Adams & Biddle, 2022). As a result, the teachers and staff are now better equipped to manage the school's facilities effectively, ensuring their optimal use and longevity. From an educational administration perspective, this enhancement in knowledge and skills supports more effective school leadership and management. Administrators who understand facility management can make informed decisions that impact budgeting, maintenance scheduling, and long-term planning, contributing to a more efficiently run school.







Figure 2. School Assistance for Effective Facility Management to Support Quality and Child-Friendly Learning Processes at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon

### **Improved Facility Conditions**

The physical condition of the school's facilities saw notable improvements as a direct result of the intervention. Key repairs and maintenance activities were carried out, addressing critical areas such as desks, chairs, blackboards, and sanitation facilities. These efforts not only enhanced the functionality of the facilities but also contributed to creating a more conducive learning environment. The improved facilities now provide a better physical environment for students, which is essential for effective learning and teaching (Brown & Green, 2021). This transformation underscores the importance of regular maintenance and timely repairs in maintaining the quality and usability of school facilities (World Bank, 2019). In terms of educational administration, improved facility conditions reduce the need for emergency repairs and reallocations of funds, allowing administrators to focus on strategic planning and educational quality improvements. A well-maintained school also enhances the school's image and can contribute to higher student enrollment and retention rates.

### **Child-Friendly Environment**

Creating a child-friendly environment was a central goal of this initiative, and significant progress was made in this regard. The school environment has become safer, more comfortable, and more supportive of the cognitive and emotional development of students. Various modifications were made to ensure that the facilities are accessible and welcoming to all students. For instance, improvements in classroom layouts, the addition of safe and engaging play areas, and enhanced sanitation facilities have collectively contributed to a more child-friendly atmosphere (Johnson & Jones, 2021). This positive change in the environment has a profound impact on the students, fostering a sense of security and well-being that is crucial for their overall development and academic performance (Smith, 2020). Educational administrators benefit from these improvements by being able to offer a more attractive and nurturing environment for students, which can improve overall school performance metrics. Additionally, a child-friendly environment aligns with educational policies and standards that emphasize student welfare and holistic development.

### **Active Participation**

A significant increase in active participation from the entire school community was another notable outcome. Teachers, staff, students, and even parents became more involved in maintaining and caring for the school facilities. This was achieved through initiatives such as routine maintenance programs, cleanliness campaigns, and awareness-raising activities. By fostering a culture of shared responsibility, the initiative successfully instilled a sense of ownership and accountability among the school community members (RSIS International). This collective effort not only ensures the sustainability of the improvements made but also builds a stronger, more cohesive community. The

active participation of all stakeholders is critical in maintaining a high standard of facility management and ensuring that the benefits of the initiative are long-lasting (Penn State Sites, 2020). From an administrative standpoint, fostering active participation helps build a strong school culture where everyone feels responsible for the school's well-being. This can lead to more effective implementation of policies and greater support for school initiatives, making the role of educational administrators easier and more impactful.

### **Discussion**

The positive outcomes observed from this community service initiative highlight the importance of a structured and comprehensive approach to facility management in schools. The enhancement of knowledge and skills among school staff is essential for sustaining the improvements made. Continuous professional development and regular training sessions are recommended to keep the staff updated on best practices and new developments in facility management (Miller, 2021). Improving the physical condition of school facilities is not a one-time effort but requires ongoing maintenance and attention. Schools need to establish regular maintenance schedules and allocate appropriate resources for the upkeep of their facilities (World Bank, 2019). Moreover, creating a child-friendly environment should be an integral part of any school's facility management strategy, as it directly impacts students' learning experiences and overall well-being (Johnson & Jones, 2021). The increase in active participation from the school community underscores the value of involving all stakeholders in the management process. Building a sense of ownership and responsibility among teachers, students, and parents is crucial for the long-term success of facility management initiatives. Schools should continue to engage the community through regular communication, involvement in decision-making processes, and collaborative activities (RSIS International). From the perspective of educational administration, these findings reinforce the need for integrated management practices that combine facility upkeep with stakeholder engagement and continuous professional development. Effective educational administration must prioritize these elements to create a sustainable and high-quality learning environment. In conclusion, the community service initiative at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon has demonstrated the significant impact that effective facility management can have on the quality of education. By enhancing the knowledge and skills of school staff, improving the physical condition of facilities, creating a child-friendly environment, and fostering active participation from the school community, the initiative has set a solid foundation for sustainable improvements. Future efforts should focus on maintaining these gains and building on the successful strategies implemented, ensuring that the benefits continue to support the educational process at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon (Adams & Biddle, 2022; Brown & Green, 2021). These efforts not only contribute to immediate improvements but also support long-term educational goals and the overall mission of providing quality education in a supportive environment.

### **CONCLUSION**

The community service initiative at SD Negeri Air Louw Ambon significantly enhanced the knowledge and skills of teachers and staff in facility management, improved the physical condition of the school's facilities, created a safer and more child-friendly environment, and fostered active participation from the entire school community. These improvements have profound implications for educational administration by supporting more effective leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement. The initiative's success underscores the importance of continuous professional development, regular maintenance, and stakeholder involvement in creating a sustainable and high-quality learning environment. This project not only addressed immediate needs but also laid a foundation for long-term educational improvements, aligning with broader goals of providing quality education in a supportive environment.

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