

## Community Empowerment Based on Education and Mentoring to Increase Local Economic Independence in Kotabumi, Lampung

Roni Susanto<sup>1</sup>, Mariyatul Kiftiyah<sup>2</sup>, Devika Rosa guspita<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Ibnurusyd, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup> Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Nurul Hidayah, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article History:</b> Received: November 4, 2025 Revised: November 22, 2025 Accepted: December 5, 2025</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Community Empowerment; Education; Mentoring; Economic Independence; Local Economy.</p>	<p>Community empowerment based on education and mentoring is an important strategy in promoting local economic independence, especially in areas with underutilized resource potential. This study aims to analyze the role of community education and mentoring in increasing local economic independence in Kotabumi, Lampung. The approach used was descriptive qualitative, with data collection techniques through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation of micro-entrepreneurs, community leaders, and empowerment program facilitators. The results show that entrepreneurship education, financial literacy, and strengthening production skills, accompanied by ongoing mentoring, can increase the capacity of communities to manage their businesses independently. Mentoring not only functions as knowledge transfer but also strengthens motivation, business networks, and access to economic resources. However, this study also identified several obstacles, such as limited capital, low technology utilization, and program sustainability. Therefore, synergy between the government, educational institutions, and local communities is a key factor in ensuring the success and sustainability of community empowerment. This research is expected to provide conceptual and practical contributions in the development of a community empowerment model oriented towards local economic independence.</p>
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<p><b>Corresponding Author:</b> Roni Susanto Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Ibnurusyd, Indonesia: <a href="mailto:rooneyshushantho@gmail.com">rooneyshushantho@gmail.com</a></p>	

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## INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment is a strategic approach in sustainable development that places the community as the main subject in the process of improving welfare.<sup>1</sup> In the context of economic development, empowerment is not only interpreted as providing material assistance, but more so as strengthening capacity, knowledge, and skills so that communities are able to manage economic potential independently.<sup>2</sup> An education and mentoring-based approach is becoming increasingly relevant amidst the dynamics of the global and local economy which demands that communities be adaptive, innovative and competitive, especially in the local economic and micro-enterprise sectors.<sup>3</sup>

In general, the facts show that the local economic sector has a significant contribution to the regional economy, especially in absorbing labor and driving the economic wheels of the lower classes.<sup>4</sup> Micro and small businesses are the backbone of local economies, relying on the potential of local resources and local wisdom. However, the sustainability of this sector depends heavily on the quality of the human resources who manage it. Without adequate educational support and mentoring, local economic potential often fails to develop optimally and tends to stagnate.

In a social context, the community in Kotabumi, Lampung, has diverse local economic potential, ranging from micro-enterprises and small-scale trade to household-based economic activities. Social facts indicate that some communities have productive economic activities, but they still operate traditionally, with simple business management and a short-term orientation. Relatively low levels of entrepreneurial and financial literacy cause many business actors to experience difficulties in capital management, financial record keeping, and business development. Furthermore, limited access to information and ongoing mentoring also contribute to the low level of community economic independence.

Based on these facts, the main problem facing the Kotabumi community lies in the weak human resource capacity to independently manage and develop local economic enterprises. Current empowerment programs tend to be partial and focused on short-term assistance, thus failing to create sustainable economic independence. The lack of integration between education, mentoring, and strengthening business networks makes it

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<sup>1</sup> R Lukman Fauroni, "Economic Empowerment Model of Al-Ittifaq Islamic Boarding School Rancabali, Bandung Regency," *Inferensi* 5, no. 1 (2016): 1, <https://doi.org/10.18326/infsl3.v5i1.1-17>; Jo Walker et al., *The Power of Education to Fight Inequality: How Increasing Educational Equality and Quality Is Crucial to Fighting Economic and Gender Inequality, Education in the Asia-Pacific Region*, vol. 27, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.21201/2019.4931>.

<sup>2</sup> Syamsuri Syamsuri, Sultan Nanta Setia Dien Labolo, and Iqbal Maulana Firdaus, "Implementation of Panca Jangka as a Strategy to Develop the Pesantren Gontor," *Santri: Journal of Pesantren and Fiqh Sosial* 4, no. 2 (2023): 177–94, <https://doi.org/10.35878/santri.v4i2.960>; Syahrudin Syahrudin, Khairunesa Isa, and Roni Susanto, "Community Empowerment Through Social Service : The Role of Sacrificial Animal Slaughter in Strengthening Solidarity and Economic Resilience in Sidoharjo Village , Pulung Ponorogo," *JSTARD: Journal Of Social Transformation And Regional Development* 7, no. 2 (2025): 32–44, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.30880/jstard.2025.07.02.004>.

<sup>3</sup> Mohsen Mohsen, Muhamad Murtadlo, and Husen Hasan Basri, "Pendidikan Life Skills Dan Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Di Pesantren Pasca UU Nomor 18 Tahun 2019," *EDUKASI: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Agama Dan Keagamaan* 20, no. 3 (2022): 262–78, <https://doi.org/10.32729/edukasi.v20i3.1468>.

<sup>4</sup> Leli Indra Beti, "Boarding School and Economic Change in Modern Islamic Boarding School Nurul Ikhlas, Tanah Datar Regency (1990-2015)," *Journal of Philology and Historical Review* 1, no. 2 (2023): 83–99, <https://doi.org/10.61540/jphr.v1i2.52>.

difficult for communities to scale their businesses and increase product competitiveness. Furthermore, the use of technology and innovation remains low, making local products less able to penetrate broader markets.

In response to these problems, a comprehensive community empowerment approach is needed through continuous education and mentoring.<sup>5</sup> Education is directed at increasing community capacity in aspects of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business management, and creative utilization of local potential. Meanwhile, mentoring serves as a continuous strengthening process that helps communities apply knowledge practically, overcome business obstacles, and build networks with various stakeholders, such as the government, educational institutions, and market players.<sup>6</sup> This approach is believed to be able to encourage changes in people's economic behavior from dependence to independence.

The primary objective of mentoring in the context of this research is to increase the economic independence of the Kotabumi community by strengthening the capacity of individuals and business groups based on local potential. Mentoring is expected to not only improve technical business skills but also foster critical awareness, self-confidence, and community motivation in developing sustainable businesses. Furthermore, mentoring aims to build a mutually supportive local economic ecosystem through collaboration and active community participation.

The novelty of this research lies in the integration of education and mentoring, designed in a participatory and contextual manner, tailored to the socio-economic characteristics of the Kotabumi community. This research not only highlights the end result of increased income but also emphasizes the process of changing community capacity, mindset, and independence as indicators of successful empowerment. Therefore, this research is expected to provide a conceptual contribution to the development of an education- and mentoring-based community empowerment model, as well as serve as a practical reference for formulating local economic empowerment policies at the regional level.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive-participatory design to examine the process and impact of education-based community empowerment and mentoring in increasing local economic independence in Kotabumi, Lampung. The qualitative approach was chosen because it can deeply explore social realities, experiences, and changes in community capacity that occurred during the mentoring process.<sup>7</sup> The

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<sup>5</sup> Junaedi, "The Role of Islamic Boarding School In The Business World," *Al Itmamiy : Jurnal Hukum Ekonomi Syariah (Muamalah)* 4, no. 1 (2022): 42–48, <https://doi.org/10.55606/ai.v4i1.10>; Mohsen, Murad, and Basri, "Pendidikan Life Skills Dan Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Di Pesantren Pasca UU Nomor 18 Tahun 2019."

<sup>6</sup> Adhi Iman Sulaiman et al., "Empowerment of Islamic Boarding School Cooperatives as Social and Economic Education for Students," *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat* 3, no. 2 (2016): 109, <https://doi.org/10.21831/jppm.v3i2.11303>; Achmad Luthfi Chamidi, "Peran Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Pesantren Dalam Mendorong Kemandirian Ekonomi ( Studi Kasus Pondok Pesantren Bahrul ' Ulum Tambakberas Jombang)," *Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi Islam* 9, no. 02 (2023): 3079–91.

<sup>7</sup> Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian : Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, Dan R&D* (Bandung: CV Alfabeta, 2016); J. W. Creswell, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (Thousand Oaks: CA: Sage

research subjects consisted of micro and small business owners, community leaders, and empowerment program facilitators who were directly involved in education and mentoring activities. Informants were selected purposively, taking into account their active involvement, business experience, and knowledge of the empowerment program. Data collection techniques included participant observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Observations were used to directly observe business activities and the mentoring process, while in-depth interviews aimed to explore perceptions, experiences, and changes experienced by the community. Documentation was used to supplement the data in the form of activity reports, photographs, and mentoring notes.

Data analysis is carried out through the stages of data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions interactively.<sup>8</sup> The analysis process was conducted simultaneously from data collection to the end of the study to gain a comprehensive understanding. Data validity was maintained through triangulation of sources and methods, as well as discussions with key informants. With this method, the research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of education and mentoring in building community economic independence based on local potential.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Result

The results of community mentoring based on education and economic capacity building in Kotabumi, Lampung, show significant changes in the knowledge, skills, and independence of local entrepreneurs. The mentoring not only serves as a means of knowledge transfer but also provides a space for reflection and motivation for the community to develop businesses based on local potential. The research findings were formulated based on observations, interviews, and documentation during the mentoring process, which were then classified into several key aspects as presented in the following table.

No	Mentoring Aspects	Initial Conditions	Education and Mentoring Process	Results Achieved
1	Entrepreneurial literacy	The business is run traditionally and individually	Basic entrepreneurship and business planning training	Increased understanding of business concepts and development orientation
2	Financial literacy	No financial records	Simple financial management education	People are starting to record their business finances
3	Production skills	Limited and less products inovatif	Assistance in improving product	More varied products and

Publications, 2018).

<sup>8</sup> A. Michael Huberman and Saldana Jhonny, *Qualitative Data Analysis a Methods Sourcebook* (America: Arizona State University, 2014).

4	Business management	Don't have a business plan	Assistance in business planning and management	quality and variety higher sales value Businesses are starting to be managed in a more structured manner
5	Networking and marketing	The market is limited to the surrounding area	Marketing education and business networking	Market access and business networks are increasingly broad
6	Attitude and independence	Dependence on aid	Strengthening motivation and self-confidence	Increased independence and business initiative

## Discussion

### Strengthening Community Entrepreneurship Capacity

The research results show that entrepreneurship education provided through a mentoring approach plays a significant role in increasing the entrepreneurial capacity of the community in Kotabumi, Lampung. Prior to the mentoring program, most business actors conducted economic activities conventionally, oriented towards meeting short-term needs, and relying on inherited experience without a clear business plan. This business model resulted in low competitiveness, limited product innovation, and weak sustainability of local economic enterprises. Through a contextual and participatory entrepreneurship education process, the community began to understand basic entrepreneurial concepts, such as business planning, risk management, market orientation, and the importance of product innovation. Mentoring was carried out not only through material delivery but also through discussions, hands-on practice, and collective reflection on business problems faced by the community. This approach encouraged adult learning (andragogy), where the experiences of entrepreneurs served as a starting point for building new knowledge.

Theoretically, this finding is in line with empowerment theory which emphasizes that empowerment is a process of increasing the capacity of individuals and groups to be able to control and manage resources independently.<sup>9</sup> In the context of entrepreneurship, capacity building is not only related to technical skills, but also to changes in mindset (entrepreneurial mindset).<sup>10</sup> Effective entrepreneurship education must be able to build

<sup>9</sup> Okta Khusna Aisi, Roni Susanto, and Khairunesa Isa, "Bridging Gender Gaps In Education Through Islamic Values And Technology At Pptq Al-Hasan," *Egalita : Jurnal Kesenjangan Dan Keadilan Gender* 20, no. 1 (2025): 13–26, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.18860/egalita.v20i1.30589>; Kholifatul Husna Asri, "Creative Economy Development in Islamic Boarding Schools Through Student Entrepreneurship Empowerment Towards the Digital Era 5.0," *Alif Sharia Economics Journal* 1, no. 1 (2022): 17–26, <https://doi.org/10.37010/alif.v1i1.710>.

<sup>10</sup> Parvez Alam Khan et al., "Open Innovation of Institutional Investors and Higher Education System in Creating Open Approach for SDG-4 Quality Education: A Conceptual Review," *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity* 8, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.3390/joitmc8010049>; Agusti, Dassucik, and Ahmad Hafas Rasyidi, "Community-Based Islamic Boarding School Economic Empowerment," *Cendekia* 14, no. 01 (2022): 159–69,

critical public awareness of economic opportunities, local potential, and the market challenges they face.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the results of this study can be analyzed through the perspective of human capital theory, which views knowledge and skills as key assets in economic development. Education-based mentoring directly contributes to improving the quality of human resources, particularly in the ability to manage businesses in a more planned and long-term manner. Communities that were previously passive and reliant on old habits are beginning to demonstrate a proactive attitude in seeking opportunities, improving product quality, and adapting to market needs.

The research findings also show that the community's understanding of market orientation and product innovation improved after participating in mentoring. This is relevant to Schumpeterian entrepreneurship theory, which places innovation at the core of entrepreneurial activity. Innovation is not always defined as the creation of radically new products, but also encompasses improvements in quality, product variety, and more effective marketing methods. In the context of the local economy, innovation based on local potential and wisdom is a key force in increasing the competitiveness of community businesses.

Thus, strengthening community entrepreneurial capacity through education and mentoring not only increases knowledge but also encourages a transformation in mindset and economic behavior. Communities are beginning to view business as a process that needs to be planned, developed, and evaluated continuously. This change forms a crucial foundation for realizing sustainable and competitive local economic independence, while also affirming that entrepreneurship education is a key element in a community empowerment strategy based on local potential.

### **Transformation of Local Business Management and Administration**

The research results show that intensive and ongoing mentoring has had a significant impact on the transformation of community business management and administration in Kotabumi, Lampung. Prior to the mentoring, most business owners conducted their economic activities without clear planning, did not separate personal and business finances, and did not maintain financial records. This condition made it difficult for business owners to objectively assess profit levels, cash flow, and business development, resulting in businesses tending to stagnate and being vulnerable to economic risks. Through the mentoring process, the community was introduced to the basic principles of business management and simple, applicable financial literacy. The mentoring was carried out not only through material delivery but also through hands-on practice in compiling daily financial records, calculating production costs, and planning capital use. As a result, the community began implementing simple financial records to monitor business income and expenses, albeit on a limited scale. This change indicates a shift in business

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<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.37850/cendekia.v14i01.255>.

<sup>11</sup> Siti Ulfatun Hasanah, Rahma Wati Ningsih, and Nafisah Nur Izzabillah, "History of The Establishment Islamic Boarding Schools In Indonesia," *Pesantren Reviews* 1, no. 1 (2023): 12–17, <https://doi.org/10.58330/pr.v1i1.101>; Mubarak Achmat, "Entrepreneurship Education in Increasing the Independence of Students of Al-Hidayah II Islamic Boarding School, Suorejo, Pasuruan," *Al-Murabbi Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Islam* 1 (2018): 1–22, <https://jurnal.yudharta.ac.id/v2/index.php/pai/article/view/1285>.

management patterns from informal to more structured management.

Theoretically, these findings can be analyzed through the perspective of small business management theory which emphasizes the importance of planning, organizing, and controlling as basic management functions.<sup>12</sup> In the context of micro and small businesses, management practices don't have to be complex, but rather tailored to the capacity and needs of the business owner. Contextual mentoring enables communities to understand that business management is not merely a theoretical concept, but rather a practical tool for ensuring business sustainability.<sup>13</sup> This transformation in business management is also relevant to financial literacy theory, which states that an individual's ability to understand and manage finances directly impacts the quality of economic decision-making. Low financial literacy is often a major obstacle to micro-enterprise development. Through ongoing mentoring, communities are not only taught how to record finances but also provided with an understanding of the function of record-keeping as a basis for business evaluation and planning. This encourages communities to be more rational and careful in managing business capital and profits.

Furthermore, the results of this study reinforce the view in social learning theory, which emphasizes that behavior change occurs more effectively through iterative, interactive, and experiential learning processes. Mentoring allows communities to directly implement the knowledge they acquire and then reflect on the results with their mentors. This process differs from one-way training, which is generally temporary and less impactful in actual practice changes.

Thus, transforming local business management and administration through education-based mentoring not only improves the community's technical skills but also builds a foundation for the sustainability of local economic enterprises. Sustainable mentoring has been shown to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice and encourage gradual and contextual changes in community economic behavior. These findings confirm that strengthening business management is a key element in community empowerment strategies oriented toward local economic independence.

### **Attitude Change and Strengthening Economic Independence**

One of the key findings of this study is the shift in community attitudes toward economic independence as a result of education-based mentoring. The mentoring was not only oriented toward improving technical business skills but also touched on psychological and social aspects of the community, such as self-confidence, motivation, and critical awareness in managing local economic potential. Prior to the mentoring, some community

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<sup>12</sup> Tasya Yustika Putri, Tuti Anggraini, and Rahmat Daim Harahap, "Analisis Implementasi Strategi Bauran Pemasaran ( Marketing Mix ) 11P Pada UMKM Tenis ( Teh Nikmat Sidamanik )," *Jurnal Rumpun Ekonomi Syariah* 6 (2023): 37–48; Rizan Mohamad, *Strategi Bauran Pemasaran Membangun Rancangan Pemasaran*, vol. 1 (Jakarta: PT Penerbitan Ilmiah Nusantara, 2021), <http://dinkes.sulselprov.go.id/page/download>.

<sup>13</sup> Endah Marendah Ratnaningtyas et al., "Strategi Pemasaran Produk Dalam Menghadapi Tantangan Pemasaran Digital(Studi Kasus Pada UMKM Keripik Belut Citra Rasa)," *AKSIOMA: Jurnal Sains Ekonomi Dan Edukasi* 1, no. 5 (2024): 216–30, <https://doi.org/10.62335/hsae2934>; John Egan, *Relationship Marketing: Exploring Relational Strategies in Marketing* (London: Pearson, 2020); Supriyanti, Dewi Kurniawati, and Roni Susanto, "Analysis of the Minister of Education ' s Curriculum Policy in the 2019-2024 Vs . 2024-2029 Era," *Qalamuna: Jurnal Pendidikan, Sosial, Dan Agama* 17, no. 1 (2025): 741–54, <https://doi.org/10.37680/qalamuna.v17i1.7127>.

members displayed a passive attitude and tended to rely on external assistance, both from the government and other parties, resulting in relatively low initiative to develop independent businesses. Through a participatory and ongoing mentoring process, a significant shift occurred in community mindsets. The community began to view economic enterprise as a means to increase independence and long-term well-being, rather than simply an additional activity to meet immediate needs. Mentoring provided a space for dialogue and reflection that encouraged the community to recognize their own potential, business opportunities, and the challenges they faced. This process fostered awareness that business success is not solely determined by capital assistance, but also by the capabilities, willingness, and strategies of the entrepreneur.

Theoretically, this finding is in line with the concept of community empowerment which emphasizes the importance of strengthening internal capacity, both at the individual and community levels.<sup>14</sup> Empowerment is understood as a transformation process that enables communities to gain control over economic decisions and resources. In this context, attitudinal change is a key indicator of successful empowerment, as it reflects a shift from dependence to independence. Mentoring acts as a facilitator, helping communities through the stages of awareness, participation, and independent decision-making. Furthermore, changes in community attitudes can be analyzed through motivation and self-efficacy theory, which states that an individual's belief in their own abilities significantly influences behavior and performance. Mentoring that provides moral support, positive reinforcement, and practical examples can increase community self-confidence in managing businesses. When communities begin to see results from their efforts, even on a small scale, this self-confidence strengthens and encourages the emergence of new initiatives in business development.

The research results show that communities are beginning to show initiative in seeking market opportunities, improving product quality, and developing business diversity without relying on external assistance. These changes reflect the development of an independent and adaptive entrepreneurial mindset. From a local economic development perspective, this independent and proactive attitude is crucial social capital for creating a sustainable economy. Communities are no longer waiting for external intervention but are beginning to optimize their local potential and existing social networks.

## CONCLUSION

This study concludes that community empowerment based on education and mentoring plays a strategic role in increasing local economic independence in Kotabumi, Lampung. Through a contextual entrepreneurial education process and ongoing mentoring, the community experienced increased capacity in understanding business concepts,

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<sup>14</sup> Ilham Zitri, Rifaid Rifaid, and Rizal Umami, "Pendampingan Penguatan Kapasitas Anggota Badan Permusyawaratan Desa (BPD) Desa Karang Bongkot Dalam Penyusunan PERDes Pembentukan BUMDes," *JCES (Journal of Character Education Society)* 5, no. 3 (2022): 726–38, <http://journal.ummat.ac.id/index.php/JCES/article/view/9326>; Kusuma Wardhani Mas'udah, Nur Aini Fauziyah, and Euis Nurul Hidayah, "Pelatihan Digitalisasi Desain Batik Dan Media Promosi Online Untuk Santri Pondok Pesantren Babussalam Jombang," *SELAPARANG Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Berkemajuan* 4, no. 3 (2021): 749, <https://doi.org/10.31764/jpmb.v4i3.5374>.



managing simple management and finances, and developing market orientation and product innovation. These results indicate that a participatory approach is more effective than short-term, instructional empowerment patterns. In addition to increasing technical capacity, this study also found a transformation in community attitudes and mindsets toward economic independence. Mentoring not only contributes to the economic aspect but also fosters self-confidence, motivation, and critical awareness in the community to manage and develop businesses independently. Thus, education-based mentoring serves as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic change that is relevant to the needs of the local community.

Future researchers are advised to expand this study with a quantitative or mixed methods approach to more objectively measure the impact of mentoring on increasing income and business sustainability. Furthermore, further research could expand the research locations and subjects to obtain a comparative picture of the effectiveness of mentoring models across various social and economic contexts. Research that integrates aspects of business digitalization and local government policies also presents an important opportunity to enrich the study of local economy-based community empowerment.

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