



Workshop on Leadership Management and Public Speaking for the Youth in Bengkalis Regency

Workshop Manajemen Kepemimpinan dan Public Speaking Bagi Pemuda di Kabupaten Bengkalis

Elvi Rahmi¹, Eva Yumami², Risda Asfina³

¹Informatics Department, Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis, Indonesia

²Informatics Department, Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis, Indonesia

³Language Department, Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis, Indonesia

E-Mail: ¹elvizasri@gmail.com, ²evayumami2015@gmail.com, ³risdaasfina@polbeng.ac.id

Corresponding Author: Risda Asfina

Abstract

Public speaking is one of the important skills that youth must have. It enables them to convey ideas or information in public well. Having good public speaking skills contributes to good leadership skills. In fact, everyone can speak but not everyone can speak fluently and attractively in public, especially for the youth. The importance of public speaking skills makes several institutions administer public speaking class and generally the youth need to afford to pay for that. The authors as lecturers of Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis in collaboration with VIA Programs and Demi Masa Institute, therefore, held community service of workshop activity to provide theory and practice of public speaking as an effort to develop youth's public speaking skills. This activity was carried out at Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis. It involved explanation in theory of public speaking and direct practice performed by 73 participants of youth in Bengkalis Regency. The methods used were workshop and training. The result of this community service activity was that the youth in Bengkalis Regency had improvement in their public speaking skills resulting in the growth of their self-confidence which then resulted in the increase in their leadership skills. Based on the interview with some participants, they uttered that this workshop activity was very useful and meaningful for them.

Keywords: Leadership Management, Public Speaking, Workshop, Youth

Abstrak

*Public speaking adalah salah satu keterampilan penting yang harus dimiliki oleh para pemuda. Keterampilan ini membuat mereka dapat menyampaikan ide atau informasi di depan umum dengan baik. Memiliki keterampilan *public speaking* yang baik berdampak pada keterampilan kepemimpinan yang baik pula. Pada kenyataannya semua orang dapat berbicara tetapi tidak semua orang dapat berbicara dengan lancar dan atraktif di depan umum, terutama bagi para pemuda. Pentingnya keterampilan *public speaking* membuat beberapa lembaga menyelenggarakan kelas *public speaking* dan pada umumnya peserta harus membayar untuk itu. Dilatarbelakangi hal di atas, penulis sebagai dosen di Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis bekerja sama dengan VIA Programs dan Demi Masa Institute mengadakan kegiatan pengabdian kepada masyarakat berupa *workshop* teori dan praktek *public speaking* sebagai upaya untuk mengembangkan kemampuan *public speaking* para pemuda. Kegiatan ini dilaksanakan di Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis. Kegiatan ini mencakup pemaparan teori *public speaking* oleh narasumber dan praktik langsung oleh 73 peserta pemuda se-Kabupaten Bengkalis. Metode yang digunakan adalah *workshop* dan pelatihan. Hasil dari kegiatan pengabdian kepada masyarakat ini adalah pemuda di Kabupaten Bengkalis mengalami peningkatan keterampilan *public speaking* sehingga tumbuh rasa percaya diri mereka yang kemudian berdampak pada peningkatan keterampilan kepemimpinan mereka. Berdasarkan wawancara dengan beberapa peserta, mereka menyatakan bahwa kegiatan *workshop* ini sangat bermanfaat dan bermakna bagi mereka.*

Kata Kunci: Manajemen Kepemimpinan, Pemuda, Public Speaking, Workshop

1. INTRODUCTION

Public speaking is literally defined as speaking in public. Public speaking means every aspect of a speaker addressing to listeners, either live or via electronic means of communication, which aims to achieve a specific goal, through various techniques of influence, information and entertainment [1]. One of the public speaking practices that is often used in everyday life is delivering presentation. It is very common to be done in schools, workplaces and neighborhood. For instance, presentation is often used for external communication between an organization or company and the stakeholders or those who have an interest in the organization/company.

Public speaking is one of the important skills that youth must have. Having good public speaking skills allows them to convey ideas and information well. When they have self-confidence speaking in public, this can affect their leadership skills. Leadership is a process by which an individual influences others to achieve a goal and directs them [2]. Leadership is a part of management [3].

Everyone can speak but not everyone can speak fluently and attractively in public. This is even more difficult when they have to be a speaker in front of many people and become the center of attention of the audience. A previous study found that 75% participants in the study admitted their fear of public speaking [4]. In fact, as a speaker, it is important to have the skills and master the techniques used to speak in public. When a speaker has the skills and mastering the techniques used to speak in public, the objectives, material and information to be conveyed to the audience can be captured and well received by the audience. It is supported by a previous study which revealed that 95% participants agreed that if proper instruction and coaching is provided, this fear of public speaking can be overcome [4].

The above-mentioned importance of public speaking leads to the idea that there should be public speaking classes for the youth which provide theory and practice of public speaking. Unfortunately, not all schools have extracurricular class of public speaking. Actually, there have been several institutions initiating public speaking classes, but mostly they are paid. In fact, not all youths can or want to afford to pay for them.

The authors as lecturers of Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis in collaboration with VIA Programs and Demi Masa Institute, therefore, held the implementation of community service of workshop activity concerning public speaking. This public speaking workshop was held with the aim of helping youth in Bengkalis Regency develop their public speaking skills through theory and practice of public speaking. This workshop focused on the youth's knowledge and understanding of skills and techniques in public speaking and self-confidence in public speaking which leads to good leadership skills. The framework of this community service can be seen in Figure 1.

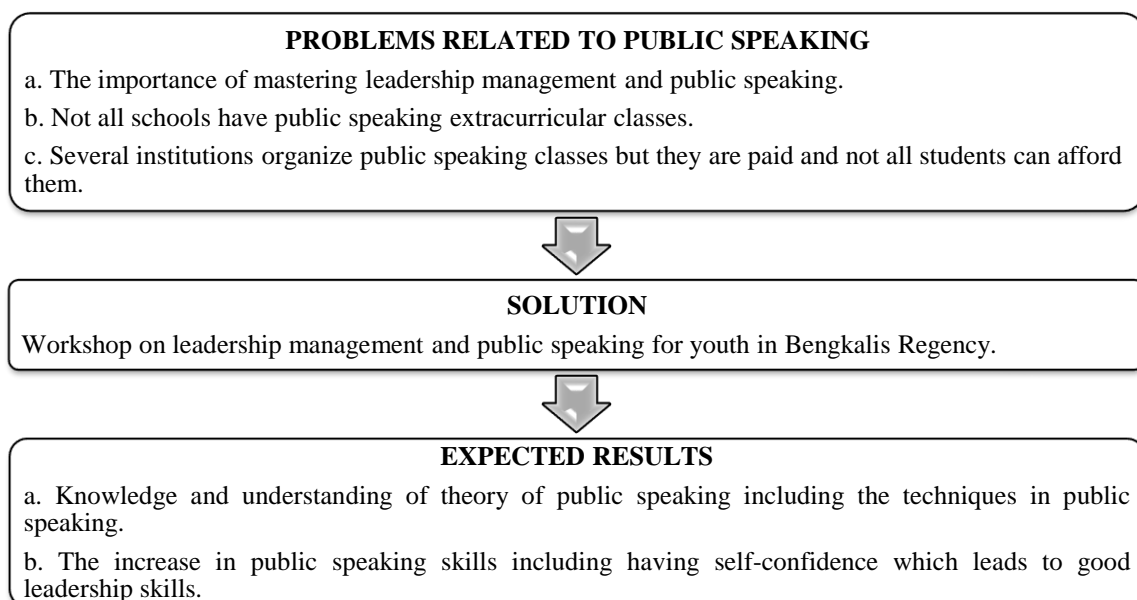


Figure 1. Community Service Framework

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

This community service included workshop and training methods. Workshop can be defined as practice as the participants create/perform something [5]. It was deemed useful to be carried out because if proper instruction and coaching is provided, fear of public speaking can be overcome [4]. The participants of this workshop were youth in Bengkalis Regency including youth and student organizations. The purpose of this workshop was to develop leadership management and public speaking skills of youth in Bengkalis Regency.

This activity was realized with grant funding from VIA Programs (Volunteers in Asia). In the grant proposal, Elvi Rahmi, S.T., M.Kom., the recipient of the funds, included a public speaking workshop as one of the activities to be carried out. The funding for the activities follows the written terms agreed upon by VIA Programs.

In order to support the realization of community service initiated, a work procedure was required which included five stages. The first stage was workshop preparation. After knowing the priority issue to be overcome, in this stage the team drew up plans regarding team coordination meetings, methods, public speaking workshop material, activity schedule, and practice of public speaking workshop. The second stage was team coordination. In this stage, the team carried out task division meeting and arranged coordination meeting schedules.

The third stage was trainer preparation. The criteria for the trainer were determined by the team with regard to the background expertise and experience associated with the needs for problem solving. For this workshop activity, the trainer was Elvi Rahmi, S.T., M.Kom. Apart from being a lecturer in Informatics Engineering Department at Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis, she was a presenter on TVRI Riau and had 10 years of work experience there. The fourth stage was determination of schedule of the program activities consisting of preparation, facilitation, implementation and activity report. It was planned that the schedule lasted for one week.

The fifth stage was activity implementation. This community service of workshop activity was carried out on Saturday, December 10, 2022 in the hall of Business Administration Department, Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis. The techniques used were presentation of theory of public speaking by the trainer and small group practice of public speaking by the participants. The participants' public speaking skills were analyzed through the implementation of foundation and techniques of public speaking they performed.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The workshop on leadership management and public speaking was held on Saturday, December 10, 2022 in the hall of Business Administration Department, Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis. The training participants were 73 participants from both youth organizations in Bengkalis Regency and students of Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis. The workshop activity was officially opened by the Director of Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis (see Figure 2).



Figure 2. Opening Speech by the Director of Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis, Johnny Custer, M.T.

The trainer of this workshop was Elvi Rahmi, S.T., M.Kom.. Apart from being a lecturer in Informatics Engineering Department at Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis, she was a presenter on TVRI Riau and had 10 years of work experience there. She started the workshop by providing a quiz. Then, she had the presentation of theory of public speaking including the foundation and techniques in public speaking. The depiction of the activity can be seen in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Implementation of Workshop by the Trainer, Elvi Rahmi, S.T., M.Kom.

After explaining the theory regarding public speaking, the trainer allowed the participants to have small group practice. Then, the groups were asked to perform public speaking on the stage. The participants' public speaking skills were analyzed through the implementation of foundation and techniques of public speaking they performed. The depiction of the activity can be seen in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Group Practice of Public Speaking

The result of this community service activity was that the youth in Bengkalis Regency had improvement in their public speaking skills resulting in the growth of their self-confidence which then resulted in the increase in their leadership skills. In addition, based on the interview with some participants, they uttered that this workshop activity was very useful and meaningful for them. Furthermore, from this activity, collaboration was established with several youth agencies and organizations in Bengkalis Regency, including the Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports Office of Bengkalis Regency and the Bengkalis Creative Network. The depiction of the persons in charge, stakeholders and participants of workshop can be seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5. Persons in Charge, Stakeholders and Participants of Workshop

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, public speaking is one of the important skills that youth must have. It enables them to convey ideas or information in public well. Having good public speaking skills contributes to good leadership skills. This workshop activity has provided theory and practice of public speaking as an effort to develop youth's public speaking skills in Bengkalis Regency. By this workshop activity, the youth in Bengkalis Regency has gained knowledge and understanding of theory of public speaking through the explanation from the speaker and has experienced the increase in public speaking skills through the practice they have performed. They have perceived that workshop on public speaking is very useful and meaningful for them.

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