SOPAN SUMBA

Online Community of Practice (CoP)

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OMDE 610 - Teaching & Learning in Distance Education

Sopan Sumba

A non-profit organization in Sumba Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia.

Sumba Island is a patriarchal society; women & girls are still considered second class citizens.

Bride kidnapping culture remains a practice by some population.

Sopan Sumba

Vision

To achieve gender equity that is fundamental to a sustainable economic development in Sumba, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia.

Mission

To provide online collaborative learning through gender literacy and English language learning.

Online Collaborative Learning

"knowledge is shared and transmitted among learners as they work towards common learning goals"

(Brindley et al., 2009)

Community of Practice

"are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly"

(Wenger-Trayner & Wenger-Trayner, 2015)

Purpose of Sumba CoP

on gender equality & equity and English language

To place women & girls as equal in the society and eradicate bride kidnapping practices, simultaneously incorporating English language into the curriculum to broaden their language skills and personal development.

Rationale of Sumba CoP

Participants' patriarchal culture upbringing becomes "an identity defined by a shared domain of interest" (Wenger-Trayner and Wenger-Trayner, 2015).

This similar upbringing and culture allow these participants:

- To share and exchange their collective ideas and knowledge, collaboratively and cooperatively. *(The domain)*

- To build and expandrelationship through various engaged and joint interactions. *(The community)*

- To construct and develop knowledge to find solutions to prevalent issues in the society, such as bride kidnapping. *(The practice)*

Technology

- **Zoom** for online collaborative learning. A 90-minute class, weekly on the weekend, due to 12 hours time difference between Washington D.C. and Sumba, Indonesia.

- **Whatsapp** for group communication and collaborative information acquisition and exchange. Whatsapp for individual communication and feedback (direct message to instructors).

- **Youtube** for online storytelling.

- **Google docs** for delivering materials as well as providing feedback and assessment on writing practice, essay, and reflection.

Publication

- **In-person approach** is appropriate to gain individual membership because it allows the organization to alter its persuasive approach, depending on each potential member's diverse background.

- **Collective approach** is appropriate to deal with other institution, such as the Catholic churches that are prominent in the society; collectively, the CoP members and core team are members of the churches.

- **Tribe leader approach** is appropriate to set stage in the community because the culture in Indonesia is a combination of national and ethnic customs. Tribe leader is a respectable figure in the community; his support is important to the success of the mission.

How to Ensure the CoP Thrive

- Expand and involve more of stakeholders:

-- Individual/institutional sponsorships to ease burden of day-to-day operational expenses, technology affordances, and to expand the capacity of the non-profit.

-- Volunteers to fill the leadership positions to better manage and expand the organization.

- Stay up-to-date with knowledge on distance education & e-learning to better sustain and expand the capacity of the organization, such as content and delivery.

- Maintain good & regular communication with CoP members to increase engagement.

References

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