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Practicing Gender Equality in Daily Life



Mukosim, 46, from Trenggalek

Mukosim (46), a resident of Trenggalek, became a participant in the JAPRI WEE Gender Training Program in Trenggalek District. Kosim, as he is called, works as a food merchant and lives with his daughter, who is currently studying at a public university in East Java. His wife works as a migrant worker in Greece. When his wife started working abroad, Kosim began asking his daughter to start helping out more at home.

Then, Kosim participated in the JAPRI WEE Gender Equality Training in Trenggalek, which was held online in February 2021. This was the first time Kosim had experienced an online training, the activities carried out through a WhatsApp group. By hosting the training on an online platform over a longer period of time than a shorter in-person session, Kosim was able to study the material whenever he was free.

Kosim told his wife about the gender equality training he had participated in, and his wife gave him support over the phone, making Kosim very excited to continue. Kosim said that his knowledge on gender roles increased, and he now knows and understands the meaning of gender equality. For example, he learned about the need for equality in women pursuing higher education. This then had a substantial impact on his decision to support his daughter to continue her education at the university.

Through this training, Kosim realized that his daily household activities— such as cleaning the house, cooking, and washing – were part of putting his gender equality training into practice, in that domestic work should not be the solely be the responsibility of women. Kosim learned that men and women can work together to meet the needs of daily life, with men also doing housework when they are at home. "In a household, it is better to help each other to earn a living and also in housework," he said. Kosim now shares household duties with his daughter.

This training strengthened Kosim in carrying out his everyday activities and has helped him become more supportive and appreciative of his wife, as well as his daughter. Kosim and his wife now both earn a living for their family, supporting their daughter to get a higher education degree.

Impact

Kosim is committed to assisting his wife in accessing capital from microfinance institutions and individuals as needed, providing motivation and support, domestic support, and providing time for female family members to participate in entrepreneurship training. Kosim also believes that women have the same rights as men and can have the same aspirations.

"This training should include all men in Trenggalek because this knowledge is essential to encourage women to move forward and so that men can share their roles in the household to support women."
- Mukosim

