

The Contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Growing Social Concern of the Young Generation in Wora Village

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in fostering social awareness among the younger generation. The research method uses qualitative descriptive data collection, which is carried out through interviews, observation, and documentation. Data analysis is carried out in four stages: data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and verification. The results of this study indicate that Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya plays an active role in fostering social awareness among the younger generation. The contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in fostering social awareness among the younger generation can be seen from its various work programs, such as Bakti Sosial Merdeka, Sanggar Seni Merdeka Jaya, Annual Tournament, Muda Mengaji Merdeka, Edukasi dan Literasi Merdeka, and Gerakan Merdeka Hijau. The younger generation's involvement in Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya activities has an impact on increasing attitudes of empathy and solidarity, attitudes of social responsibility, and positive changes in attitudes. Research is expected to contribute to youth organizations forming positive characters for the younger generation in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Karang Taruna is a youth social organization that is important in forming social character and fostering a sense of caring among the younger generation (Wardani & Pujiyanto, 2024). As a forum for developing potential, Karang Taruna is a place for young people to gather and a means of learning social values, mutual cooperation, and responsibility towards society (Bintari & Darmawan, 2016; Sari & Pujiyanto, 2024). Amidst increasing individualism and rapid social change, the role of Karang Taruna is becoming increasingly important in building social awareness among the younger generation so that they care more about the environment.

Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya (KTMJ) Wora Village, Wera District, Bima Regency, has an active role in driving social activities to improve community welfare. The KTMJ organization involves youth in various activities, such as community service, social service, and community empowerment programs. In recent years, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya has routinely held clean-up activities and reforestation and provided assistance to disaster victims, as well as held

tournaments such as takraw ball, soccer, chess, and religious competitions. Study (Bintari & Darmawan, 2016) the activities carried out by Karang Taruna are not only beneficial to the community but can also be a means for young people to learn to understand the importance of solidarity and social concern in community life.

The social concern of the young generation of Wora through KTMJ can be seen from the various innovative programs they run. The "Muda Merdeka" program is one of the programs that invites KTMJ administrators and young people from Wora village to carry out social services, such as cleaning roads full of mud, raising funds for disasters, and helping community activities. This program aims to foster empathy and a sense of social responsibility among the younger generation. The study (Maftuhin, 2025) explained that by fostering empathy and social responsibility, the younger generation is expected to become humans who are sensitive to the needs of society and are able to make real contributions to building better groups. In addition, they are also active in holding skills training for drop-out youth as a form of support for local economic empowerment and holding various competitions for the community. These activities prove that Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Wora village has a real contribution to shaping the social character of the younger generation.

The contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in fostering social awareness cannot be separated from the support of various parties. The village government, community leaders, and youth work together to implement various social programs. For example, in the flood disaster relief activities that hit Wora and Nanga Wera villages on February 2, 2025, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya collaborated with various communities and institutions, such as the Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), to distribute aid and support the evacuation process. This collaboration strengthens the sense of togetherness and proves that the younger generation can be real agents of social change.

The success of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in fostering social awareness can be seen from the changes in attitudes and behavior of members and the community. Many young people in Wora village who were previously apathetic became more concerned about the social conditions around them after being active in social activities. Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya has a library, so several members involved in the literacy program now routinely hold free tutoring for underprivileged children. This shows that through direct involvement in social activities, the younger generation can become more sensitive and make a real contribution to their community.

The role of Karang Taruna in fostering social awareness of the younger generation has been carried out by several researchers in Indonesia. Solihah (2021) explored the role of Karang Taruna in increasing social awareness among youth. The results show that the role of Karang Taruna in increasing social awareness among youth is in the less-than-good category, which means that there are still youth who are less responsive and care about their surroundings. Anggraini and Firman (2023) highlight the importance of Karang Taruna as a youth organization in fostering awareness of social responsibility in the younger generation through various programs and activities carried out. These programs aim to help develop and empower rural communities, which have a positive impact on the younger generation to care for each other and establish good communication in society. Other relevant research Saragih & Juwita (2022) shows that Karang Taruna youth play a role in increasing social awareness in the community through various social activities and community empowerment efforts.

Although various studies have discussed the role of Karang Taruna in community empowerment and youth development, studies that specifically analyze the contribution of Karang Taruna in fostering social awareness of the younger generation at the village level are still limited. Previous studies have focused more on economic aspects and skills development without

highlighting how the process of forming social character and empathy occurs through active involvement in Karang Taruna. In Wora Village, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya has implemented various social programs that have an impact on increasing social awareness among the younger generation. Research has been conducted, but there are not many studies that reveal in-depth how Karang Taruna programs run, the challenges faced, and the concrete impact on the social character of the younger generation. This study fills this gap by providing a comprehensive picture of Karang Taruna's contribution to shaping the social awareness of the younger generation in Wora Village, Wera District, and Bima Regency.

The urgency of research on the contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya is relevant as an effort to build a young generation with high social awareness. Amidst the challenges of globalization and modernization, the role of youth organizations is becoming increasingly important in maintaining the values of togetherness and solidarity in society (Hulu, 2024; Sinaga et al., 2021; Evania et al., 2024). By understanding the roles and challenges faced, this study is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of how Karang Taruna contributes to shaping the social character of the young generation at the local level.

Based on the explanation above, this study aims to analyze in depth how Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Wora Village contributes to fostering social awareness of the younger generation. This study is also expected to provide recommendations for the development of more effective and sustainable programs. Ultimately, Karang Taruna, as a youth organization, has great potential to create a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent but also has high social awareness to build a harmonious and prosperous society.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to understand in depth how Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Wora Village contributes to fostering social awareness of the younger generation. The descriptive qualitative method is a research approach that aims to understand and describe phenomena in depth based on qualitative data (Purwanza, 2022; Ardyan et al., 2023). Qualitative methods were chosen because they allow researchers to explore experiences, views, and social dynamics directly from primary sources. The approach used in this study is descriptive qualitative, meaning that this study explores the role, programs, challenges, and real impacts generated by Karang Taruna in shaping social character among young people. This research was conducted in Wora Village, Wera District, Bima Regency, where Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya actively runs various social programs. This location was chosen because the organization has various activities that focus on developing the social character of young people. The research lasted for 3 months, from December 2024 to February 2025, covering the stages of data collection, analysis, and report preparation.

The data in this study were obtained from two main sources. Primary Data: This data was collected directly from individuals who are actively involved in Karang Taruna, including administrators, members, and youth who participated in the activities. Secondary Data: Additional data that supports the analysis was obtained from official documents of Karang Taruna, activity reports, village archives, and related literature on the role of youth organizations in shaping social character. Data Collection Techniques were carried out through interviews, observations, and documentation. In-depth Interviews. The researcher interviewed Karang Taruna administrators, active members, and several community leaders. Interviews were conducted directly to understand how Karang Taruna fosters social awareness, the challenges faced, and its impact on youth. Observations were conducted directly in several Karang Taruna activities such as social services,

community service, education and literacy, art studios, annual tournaments, and religion. In this observation, the researcher can see firsthand the involvement of the younger generation, social interactions, and forms of concern that grow among the younger generation. Documentation: The researcher collected and analyzed documents such as archives of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya activities, photos of events, and annual reports of the organization.

Data analysis techniques use the Miles and Huberman model (Sugiyono & Setiyawami, 2022). There are four stages: Data Collection, Data Reduction, Data Presentation, and Verification or Drawing Conclusions. 1) Data collection is carried out through interviews, observations, and documentation; 2) Data Reduction obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation is selected and simplified to find relevant information; 3) Data Presentation that has been summarized is arranged systematically in the form of narratives and descriptions that are easy to understand; 4) Verification or Drawing Conclusions. After the data is analyzed in depth, the researcher draws conclusions about the contribution of Karang Taruna in forming social awareness among the younger generation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Cultivating Social Awareness

Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya (KTMJ) in Wora Village has a strategic role in shaping the social awareness of the younger generation. Based on the results of interviews with administrators and members, it was found that this organization is the main forum for young people to learn and practice social values. Through various programs and activities, KTMJ is able to integrate social learning with real actions in the community. One of the main roles of Karang Taruna is as a facilitator who bridges the needs of the community with the active participation of young people (Ruja et al., 2024; Wibowo & Lestari, 2024). In an interview with Defisofian (Head of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya), he explained that KTMJ routinely holds social service activities every year. This activity not only provides direct benefits to the community but also fosters a sense of empathy and social responsibility among the younger generation.

“Every year, we hold social service activities involving members of Karang Taruna and the community. Some of the main activities include cleaning gutters and water channels, repairing public facilities, and other activities involving administrators and members.”

The results of this interview show that the activities carried out by Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya reflect a high sense of social concern among the youth of Wora village. Study Kamil and Konggoro (2023) highlighted that Karang Taruna plays an active role in building solidarity, strengthening social relations, and carrying out social responsibilities. This involvement reflects youth awareness of the importance of contributing to creating a harmonious environment in society.

In addition, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya acts as an agent of social change that encourages young people to become pioneers in overcoming social problems in their environment. Sari and Pujianto (2024) explained that with community empowerment programs, Karang Taruna equips youth with the skills and knowledge needed by the younger generation to respond effectively to social challenges.

KTMJ through educational programs, such as environmental cleanliness and social services from Bakti Muda Merdeka Jaya, holding tournaments to develop youth potential with annual tournament programs, dance skills training from the Merdeka Jaya studio program, Merdeka Jaya

stalls for economic independence of administrators and members, inviting the generation to read with Merdeka education and literacy programs, green Merdeka movements, and religious activities, Karang Taruna members gain a better understanding of the importance of contributing to social life. Observation data shows that members who are active in this program tend to have higher social awareness compared to youth who are not involved.

Forms of Social Activities Carried Out by Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya

Karang Taruna, as a youth organization, has an important role in fostering social awareness among the younger generation to be sensitive to the social environment in society. Karang Taruna encourages youth participation in various community activities, fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility (Faizah et al., 2024). Based on the results of field observations and documentation, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya held various social activities aimed at increasing the social awareness of the younger generation. Several forms of KTMJ programs that can foster social awareness of young people, namely:

Table 1. Work Program of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya (KTMJ) Wora Village

No	Work program	Descriptive activities
1	Independence Social Service	Activities that focus on the community include mutual cooperation, cleaning, raising and distributing funds for disaster victims and people in need of assistance, and helping community activities.
2	Merdeka Jaya Arts Studio	Arts development programs for youth include dance, hadrat, and choir.
3	Annual Tournament	This program focuses on tournaments such as inter-village football up to the district level, takraw ball tournaments, and chess.
4	Young People Studying the Koran Independently	The program focuses on religious activities by holding competitions for the month of Ramadan, the Prophet's birthday, and Islamic holidays.
5	Independent Education and Literacy	Developing the younger generation by holding free reading in the Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya secretariat area, with library facilities.
6	Green Freedom Movement	Karang Taruna planted trees with the community.

Merdeka Social Service Activities. Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya regularly provides social services in the form of village cleaning activities, mutual cooperation, distributing basic necessities to the underprivileged, and helping with community activities. This activity encourages young people to be directly involved in helping people in need. Through village cleaning and mutual cooperation activities, the younger generation is invited to work together to maintain cleanliness and environmental sustainability (Lestari et al., 2016; Chandra et al., 2025). This program instills the values of solidarity, responsibility, and a sense of belonging to the young generation towards the surrounding environment (Prayuda et al., 2025). In addition, the activity of distributing basic necessities is a real form of concern for others, especially for residents in need. By being directly involved in this activity, the younger generation learns to understand the importance of sharing and empathy for the social conditions around them.

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Studies (Zianida et al., 2024) explained that active participation in community activities not only strengthens the relationship between youth and residents but also forms the character of the younger generation who are responsive to social problems. Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya is an effective social learning forum for youth in Wora Village, encouraging them to become agents of change who care and are responsible for building a better village.

Merdeka Jaya Art Studio work program. Merdeka Jaya Youth Organization plays an important role in fostering social awareness of the younger generation in Wora Village through Merdeka Jaya Art Studio. This program focuses on developing artistic talents among young people, such as traditional dance, hadrah, and choir. Ahmal et al. (2024) highlight that various art activities in the village help the younger generation preserve local culture while building a sense of togetherness and social responsibility. Art activities such as hadrah dance and choir are often involved in religious events and village social activities, such as weddings, the Prophet's birthday, and other activities. By actively participating, young people learn to understand the importance of their contribution to strengthening social relations and maintaining traditions that are the identity of the community (Siregar et al., 2024). In addition, through joint training in the studio, they develop a sense of solidarity, discipline, and concern for fellow members and the surrounding environment. Merdeka Jaya Art Studio is a means for the younger generation to channel their creativity while forming a caring and active character in community life. With this program, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya can be a part of preserving cultural heritage and encouraging young people in Wora Village to become individuals who have empathy, responsibility, and a spirit of mutual cooperation.

Annual Tournament. Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya plays an active role in organizing various social and sports activities, including an annual tournament in Wora Village. This program includes various competitions such as inter-village to district-level soccer, takraw ball tournaments, and chess.

In an interview with the head of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya on January 20, 2025, that *“Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya holds an annual tournament to provide an opportunity for the younger generation to channel their talents and interests in sports; this tournament builds a spirit of togetherness among young people.”*

Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya encourages a sense of responsibility and solidarity by involving young people in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of tournaments. This activity is a forum to strengthen relationships between residents, prevent deviant behavior among teenagers, and shape characters who care about the social environment. In addition, the proceeds from the tournament are often used to support other social activities, such as community service or assistance for residents in need. Thus, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya plays an important role in fostering a sense of empathy, cooperation, and social concern among the younger generation in Wora Village.

Furthermore, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya's contribution to fostering social awareness among the younger generation in Wora Village can be seen through the Muda Mengaji Merdeka program. Matondang et al. (2025) explained that the program focuses on religious activities aimed at fostering morals, strengthening spiritual values, and increasing a sense of togetherness among the younger generation. Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya, by holding various competitions at important moments such as the month of Ramadan, the Prophet's Birthday, and other Islamic holidays, is able to encourage the active participation of the younger generation in studying and practicing religious teachings. This activity not only strengthens religious understanding but also fosters social awareness through cooperation, solidarity, and a spirit of sharing. By involving themselves in religious activities, the younger generation is expected to have a sense of social

responsibility, appreciate noble values, and play an active role in maintaining Islamic traditions in their environment.

Then, the efforts of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Wora Village to foster social awareness of the younger generation through the Merdeka Education and Literacy program. One of the real efforts made is to provide library facilities in the secretariat area that can be accessed for free by the community, especially young people. This program aims to increase interest in reading, broaden horizons, and build awareness of the importance of education as a foundation for building the future of the village (Karim et al., 2023; Akapela et al., 2024; Prasetya, 2024). With the existence of a free library, the younger generation is encouraged to develop their literacy skills so that one day, they can foster a sense of social responsibility. Education and independent literacy activities create a space for discussion and collaboration that builds solidarity among youth and society. Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya acts as a facilitator in building social awareness and a spirit of mutual cooperation among the younger generation, strengthening the value of togetherness in community life in Wora Village.

The last work program, the Green Freedom Movement, is one of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya's contributions to fostering social awareness of the younger generation in Wora Village. In this program, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya, together with the management, invites the younger generation and the wider community to take real action to protect the environment. Through a tree planting program with the community, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya shows their efforts in building ecological awareness among the youth of Wora Village. Building ecological awareness among the younger generation and the community is an important step in preserving the environment amidst global challenges (Moridu et al., 2023; Suprihandari et al., 2025).

In an interview with the Head of Public Relations on January 29, 2025, he explained that *“The Merdeka Hijau Movement activity only aims to green the environment and invites the younger generation and the community to have a sense of social responsibility to protect and preserve the village's nature.”* By implementing programs such as the Merdeka Hijau Movement, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya becomes a driving agent in shaping the character of the younger generation who care about society and the environment. This activity encourages young people to actively participate in sustainable village development and raises awareness that protecting and preserving the environment is part of a shared responsibility.

The contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in fostering social awareness of the younger generation in Wora Village can be seen through various programs that benefit the community. Activities such as Bakti Sosial Merdeka demonstrate the spirit of mutual cooperation and concern for residents in need. Sanggar Seni Merdeka Jaya is a forum for preserving local culture while fostering the creativity of the younger generation. The Annual Tournament strengthens solidarity and sportsmanship, while Muda Mengaji Merdeka encourages the strengthening of religious values. In addition, Edukasi dan Literasi Merdeka increases knowledge and awareness of the importance of education, while Gerakan Merdeka Hijau teaches the importance of protecting the environment. Through these activities, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya has succeeded in forming the character of the younger generation who care, are active, and are responsible for the community and environment in Wora Village.

The Impact of Karang Taruna Activities on the Social Concern of the Young Generation

The results of the analysis of various data that have been collected show that the active role of the young generation in the activities of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya has a significant positive impact on the social concern of the young generation of Wora Village. This impact can be seen

from three aspects as indicators, namely, increasing empathy and solidarity attitudes, social responsibility attitudes, and positive changes in attitudes.

1. Increasing Sense of Empathy and Solidarity

Empathy and solidarity are two important attitudes in building harmonious social relationships. By improving these two attitudes, society can create an environment of mutual support, understanding, and care for others. Through direct interaction with people in need, Karang Taruna members develop a deeper sense of empathy. Interviews with members showed that the experience of helping residents directly encouraged them to be more sensitive to the social conditions around them.

“Joining Karang Taruna gave me a lot of valuable experience. Through social activities, such as helping people in need, such as working together to lift people's houses, cleaning muddy roads, helping people when there is a disaster, this involvement makes me more sensitive to the conditions around me.” HR explained in an interview on December 15, 2024.

2. Improvement Social Responsibility Attitude

Social responsibility is the awareness and actions of individuals or groups in making positive contributions to the environment and society. (Surahman & Mukminan, 2017). Study Pratama & Rahmat (2018) explains that social responsibility includes concern for others, the environment, and public welfare. Activities that are oriented towards the interests of the community foster a sense of responsibility among young people. Observation data shows that the young generation and administrators of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya play an active role in community activities outside of official programs, such as helping neighbors in trouble or supporting other social activities in the village.

3. Positive Behavior Change

The existence of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya has an impact on changing the attitudes and behavior of the young generation of Wora Village. The active participation of the young generation in the Karang Taruna program makes them more disciplined, responsible, and have the initiative in solving social problems.

Table 2. Impact of the Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya Work Program in Fostering Social Concern among the Young Generation

No	Aspect	Impact
	Empathy and Solidarity Attitude	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing youth concern for social conditions around them 2. The formation of an attitude of mutual assistance among youth and the community in facing problems 3. Young people are actively involved in social activities such as community service, mutual cooperation, and humanitarian aid.
	Social Responsibility Attitude	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth demonstrate commitment in carrying out and completing social activities. 2. There is a youth initiative to organize programs that are beneficial to the community. 3. Increasing youth awareness of the importance of maintaining and improving the social environment.

	Positive Attitude Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a change in behavior from an individualistic attitude to being more caring and inclusive. 2. Increasing active participation in solving social problems collectively. 3. Youth demonstrate an attitude of respecting differences and strengthening unity in the community.
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Challenges and Strategies in Running Social Programs in Karang Taruna

Although Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Wora Village has contributed to fostering social awareness, they also face several obstacles in implementing work programs. For example, limited resources, such as insufficient operational funds, facilities, and manpower, are the main challenges that hinder the optimal implementation of activities. Then, not all young people are active in Karang Taruna activities due to a lack of interest, personal busyness, or minimal awareness of the importance of social participation. Another obstacle is youth group sentiment, where differences of opinion or competition between groups can trigger a lack of solidarity and hinder collaboration in implementing programs. Despite facing these challenges, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya continues to strive to find solutions so that social programs continue to run and provide benefits to the Wora Village community.

In an interview with the Head of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in Wora Village, it was revealed that this organization implemented several strategies to face challenges such as lack of resources, uneven youth participation, and group sentiment.

Overcoming the lack of resources. To overcome the limited resources, Karang Taruna builds cooperation with the village government, private institutions, and local communities to obtain financial support and facilities. In addition, they also hold fundraising through social activities or certain events and utilize available resources efficiently.

Next, increasing youth participation. In an effort to invite wider youth involvement, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya takes a personal approach through direct socialization with youth groups in various environments. They also hold various activities according to the interests of the younger generation, such as sports, arts, and education, to attract more participation.

Finally, overcoming group sentiment. In dealing with differences of opinion or competition between youth groups, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya invites open dialogue and deliberation to create a sense of togetherness. They also promote the value of solidarity and organize inclusive activities so that all youth feel they have a role in the organization.

With these various efforts, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya continues to be committed to fostering social awareness of the younger generation in Wora Village, creating a more inclusive environment, and building strong solidarity among the community.

CONCLUSION

Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya is a youth organization that plays an active role in empowering youth and the community at the Wora village level. The organization contributes to fostering social awareness of the Wora Village generation with its various work programs. The work programs of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya are Merdeka Social Service, Merdeka Jay Art Studio, Annual Tournament, Young Reciting Merdeka, Merdeka Education and Literacy, and the Merdeka Green Movement. These programs have had an impact on increasing attitudes of empathy and solidarity, attitudes of social responsibility, and positive changes in attitudes in the younger generation.

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Although the Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya work program has had a positive impact on the younger generation, there are still several obstacles, such as lack of resources, uneven distribution of participants, and sentiment from youth groups. In overcoming these obstacles, Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya seeks to build partnerships with various parties, conduct outreach, and invite open dialogue with youth.

Based on the research findings, several recommendations can be given to strengthen the contribution of Karang Taruna Merdeka Jaya in fostering social awareness of the younger generation in Wora Village, namely: 1) Increasing Financial Support and Facilities. The village government and related institutions are expected to provide greater support in the form of operational funds and facilities to support Karang Taruna's social activities; 2) Expanding Socialization and Participation. Karang Taruna needs to increase socialization efforts through social media, community meetings, and collaboration with schools to attract more young people to actively participate; 3) Developing Sustainable Programs Designing sustainable and long-term oriented programs, such as social education and skills development, to ensure a broader and more sustainable impact.

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