

UiTM-UNPAK PROGRAMME

Bridging Cultures and Fostering Sustainable
Community Development with International
Community Service UiTM-UNPAK programme

In an era of global interconnectivity, the International Community Service UiTM-UNPAK programme stands as an example of unity in diversity and a commitment to the well-being of communities, with a focus on Desa Pagelaran, Indonesia. This programme is a testament to the power of international collaboration, orchestrated by Universitas Pakuan (UNPAK), Bogor, and supported by the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Puncak Alam Campus, Malaysia. Together, they have created a platform for students from different cultural backgrounds to come together and work towards a common goal.



The programme unfolded over several days, encompassing a diverse array of activities that aimed to forge connections between students from different cultural backgrounds. Beyond the goal of promoting cross-cultural cooperation, the programme's core objectives included a strong commitment to the welfare and needs of Desa Pagelaran's residents. The students' hands-on involvement in various projects was a testament to their dedication. One notable undertaking involved the creation of candied nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*), a process that transformed the aromatic nutmeg fruit into delectable sweets. Alongside this, they crafted a health drink using organic ingredients such as ginger, honey, and lemongrass. These projects, rooted in the ingenious utilisation of natural resources, showcased the students' creativity and resourcefulness.

The programme's impact extended beyond mere product creation. The students assumed the role of educators, offering detailed explanations of the health benefits inherent in the beverages they crafted. Their efforts were instrumental in ensuring that the residents of Desa Pagelaran recognised the positive effects that can result from the consumption of these drinks, thereby increasing awareness of the importance of a healthy diet. Moreover, the students did not stop at sharing knowledge; they also taught the local community how to replicate these beverages at home. Through comprehensive guidance on ingredient selection, preparation techniques, and proper storage, they empowered the villagers to generate additional income for themselves.

The ripple effect of this initiative reverberated through the local economy. Village residents, now well-versed in producing organic beverages, found new avenues to market their products. The residents' newly acquired skills drove this economic growth, which benefited both individuals and the region. On a larger scale, the programme's emphasis on organic ingredients in beverage production held the potential to transform the pharmaceutical industry. By encouraging the use of natural resources, the programme unlocked opportunities for the development of innovative products and the enhancement of existing ones, thus benefiting the industry at large.

In conclusion, the International Community Service UiTM-UNPAK programme illustrates the boundless potential of cross-cultural collaboration and community service. It serves as a beacon of unity, cultural exchange, and skill development, with the added significance of being a collaborative effort between Universitas Pakuan and the UiTM Faculty of Pharmacy. As it continues to evolve and fulfil its mission, the programme is positioned to make an even greater impact in the future, fostering sustainable development and leaving an indelible mark on the Desa Pagelaran community and beyond.



Mr. Muhammad 'Izzuddin Zamery
Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM

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 Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM



 <https://pharmacy.uitm.edu.my/>



 +603-3258 4645

 korporatff@uitm.edu.my

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Illustrator:

Ms. Norazua Ahmad

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Faculty of Pharmacy,
Universiti Teknologi MARA,
Kampus Puncak Alam,
42300 Bandar Puncak Alam, Selangor.