



## **Analysis of the Implementation of the Street Children's Empowerment Program in Improving Social Welfare in the City of Mataram**

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**Received:** 15 March 2025

**Accepted:** 20 February 2025

**Published:** 25 June 2025

### **Abstract**

*This scription discusses the analysis of the implementation of the street children empowerment program in improving social welfare implemented by the Mataram city social service. The effectiveness of this treatment program uses the theory of Ni Wayan Budiani using four indicators of program effectiveness, namely accuracy of program targets, program socialization, implementation of program objectives, and program monitoring. This thesis uses a qualitative and descriptive approach supported by secondary data. Using direct observation and interviews with informants from social services, namely the head of the rehabilitation section and the social rehabilitation task force. Technical data analysis starts from collecting information through interviews and at the final stage with interesting conclusions. The results of the observations show that the program for handling street children implemented by the Mataram city social service is running effectively, because it can be seen that the number of street children in the city of Mataram has decreased every year. However, there are still several things that Mataram city social service officers must pay attention to when dealing with street children. Apart from that, this scription also discusses the steps and programs for handling street children carried out by social services in the city of Mataram. The program in question includes providing food to people who are poor or underprivileged, providing assistive equipment, providing physical, mental, spiritual and social guidance for neglected people with disabilities.*

**Keywords:** *Programs; Street Children; Social Welfare.*

## **A. Introduction**

The presence of street children in Indonesia has been a pressing social issue for years, with their numbers increasing in many regions. According to the Ministry of Social Affairs of Indonesia (2005:5), street children are defined as those who spend most of their time living, working, or wandering in public spaces, often for survival. As citizens, these children are entitled to rights and protections to ensure their development into productive individuals with a promising future. These rights include access to education, healthcare, family support, and protection from exploitation (Fitteriya, 2018).

In Mataram City, the existence of street children, along with vagrants and beggars, reflects a social condition that contradicts national values based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Efforts to address this issue are mandated by Government Regulation No. 31 of 1980, which emphasizes integrated and comprehensive measures to align with the city's vision of being advanced, religious, and cultured (Suparyanto dan Rosad 2020). The decentralization policies outlined in Law No. 32 of 2004, revised by Law No. 12 of 2008, grant local governments authority to manage issues such as social welfare. This includes implementing programs to address street children, with the goal of fostering societal well-being through enhanced services and empowerment initiatives. The responsibility of regional governments, as stated in Regulation No. 05 of 2012, includes preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative efforts to mitigate the growth and exploitation of street children while fostering their self-reliance and integration into society (Herlina, 2014).

Data from the Social Affairs Office of Mataram City show that the number of street children has decreased annually, from 41 in 2019 to 24 in 2022. Despite this decline, the persistence of street children indicates that current interventions have not fully resolved the issue. Existing programs include temporary provisions such as food and clothing, education access, and family reunification initiatives. However, the effectiveness of these programs in addressing the root causes of the problem, such as poverty and limited opportunities, remains uncertain. The complexity of street

children as a social phenomenon requires coordinated efforts from families, communities, and the government. Poverty remains a dominant factor, often forcing children into the streets to survive. Addressing this issue necessitates not only economic support but also cultural and structural interventions to ensure these children receive adequate protection and opportunities.

There have been several previous studies on the topic of "Analisis Pelaksanaan Program Pemberdayaan Anak Jalanan Dalam Meningkatkan Kesejahteraan Sosial Di Kota Mataram". The following previous study serves to find gaps in this research. The first previous study was done (Ani Aminah Yan, 2021), which is entitled "Strategi Dinas Sosial Dalam Penanganan Anak Jalanan Di Kota Bandar Lampung". The results of this study are still found limitations of human resources, funds, infrastructure, and service quality that still vary. So that the Social Service has not shown the results expected by the Bandar Lampung City Government. This study uses the same type of qualitative research and data collection methods as well as the type of conflict studied. The second study was done by (Wahyudi et al 2021), entitled "Peran Dinas Sosial Dalam Pembinaan Anak Jalanan Di Kota Makasar". The research results show that the preventive coaching aspect is carried out through routine daily patrol activities by Tim Reaksi Cepat Saribattang or abbreviated as (TRC). There are many other relevant studies, such as (Aruan and Halawa, 2019) entitled "Peran Dinas Sosial Dalam Memberikan Pembinaan Terhadap Anak Jalanan Di Medan", (Adi Hilmansyah, Syarifuddin, Arwan Rosyadi, 2023) entitled "Pemberdayaan Anak Jalanan Melalui Program Peningkatan Kapasitas Berwirausaha di BRSAMPK Paramita Mataram", (Adi Hilmansyah, Syarifuddin & Arwan Rosyadi, 2023) entitled "Permberdayaan Anak Jalanan Melalui Keterampilan Pembuatan Souvenir" di Panti Asuhan Mizan Amanah Perumnas, Klender Jakarta Timur". The gap between this research and previous research is the similarity of the current study with previous studies is that both examine the main focus of the complex that is often found and often occurs in

society. Therefore, active participation is needed from all elements of society to play an active role, both from the government which has full authority in overcoming street children in Mataram City. While the difference in this study with previous studies lies in the object or location of the study. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the implementation of government programs for the empowerment of street children in Mataram City. Specifically, this study aims to evaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of the program in improving the social welfare of street children and reducing their numbers sustainably.

## **B. Method**

### **Research Design**

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research method to analyze and understand the implementation of street children empowerment programs in improving social welfare in Mataram City. The qualitative approach was selected as it enables in-depth exploration and detailed analysis of social phenomena, providing a comprehensive understanding of the program's effectiveness and challenges.

### **Research Location and Duration**

The research was conducted at the Social Service Office of Mataram City, located at Jl. R.A. Kartini No.3, Monjok Timur, Kecamatan Selaparang, Kota Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Indonesia. The study was carried out over a period of two months, starting from the date of research approval.

### **Data Sources**

The data used in this study consisted of primary and secondary data: Primary Data Primary data were obtained through direct interviews with key informants and observations in the field. Informants included officials and staff of the Social Service Office, particularly those involved in the rehabilitation and empowerment programs for street children. Secondary Data Secondary data were derived from relevant literature,

documentation, and reports obtained from the Social Service Office. These documents included statistics on the number of street children, program policies, and reports related to the effectiveness of the empowerment initiatives.

### **Sampling Technique**

The research employed the snowball sampling method to identify informants. This technique involved initially selecting a small group of individuals meeting the criteria and subsequently asking them to recommend other potential informants who could provide relevant information. This method was particularly useful in reaching individuals involved directly or indirectly in the empowerment program, ensuring a comprehensive data collection process.

### **Data Collection Methods**

The data collection process included the following techniques: Observation Observations were conducted to gain insights into the implementation of the street children empowerment program. This involved direct participation and monitoring of the activities carried out by the Social Service Office in relation to street children. Interviews: semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants, including the Head of the Rehabilitation and Social Service Section, task force members, and other stakeholders. The questions were designed to explore the strategies, challenges, and outcomes of the empowerment programs. Documentation involved collecting reports, statistical data, and other relevant materials from the Social Service Office. These documents provided supplementary information to support the analysis.

### **Data Analysis**

Data analysis was conducted using qualitative descriptive techniques, which included the following steps:

**Data Reduction:** the collected data were systematically reduced by summarizing and selecting key themes relevant to the research objectives.

This process focused on identifying patterns and relationships within the data.

**Data Presentation:** the reduced data were organized into a coherent structure using narrative descriptions and visual aids, such as tables and flowcharts, to enhance readability and facilitate analysis.

**Conclusion Drawing:** conclusions were drawn by comparing the findings against the initial research objectives and supporting evidence. This process involved identifying correlations and differences in the data to generate credible insights.

The study adhered to ethical research principles by ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of informants. Data collection was conducted in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the Indonesian regulations on social welfare programs.

## C. Result and Discussion

### 1. Result

#### Target Accuracy of the Program

Data obtained from the Mataram City Social Service shows that the street children empowerment program has succeeded in reaching around 120 children, representing 80% of the target set at 150 children. In this case, the targeted street children were selected based on certain criteria, including age, socio-economic conditions, educational status, and daily activities on the streets. In addition, this program recorded a significant decrease in the number of active street children, from 150 to only 5 children after the program was implemented (Mr. Ridho, 2024).

*"To determine street children as targets for the empowerment program, we have set several main criteria based on conditions in the field and guidelines from the central government. Some of the criteria are the age of the child, socio-economic conditions, educational status, daily activities on the streets". (Results of the interview on 20-11-2024 with Mr. Ridho).*

From the above explanation, the criteria used by the Mataram City Social Service to determine the target of the street children empowerment

program itself is Age 5-18 years, this age is considered the group that needs the most intervention to prevent deeper involvement in the streets. The socio-economic conditions of children from underprivileged families or without caregivers remain a priority because they are vulnerable to exploitation and have difficulty accessing basic services. The educational status where children drop out of school or do not have access to formal education is targeted to provide them with the opportunity to continue their education through package catch-up programs or skills training.

The following is data that supports the accuracy of the targets of the street children empowerment program as follows:

1. Number of Street Children in Mataram City

Data from the Mataram City Social Service noted that there were 5 street children identified during the study period. These children are spread across six main sub-districts, with the highest concentration in the Ampenan and Cakranegara areas, which are the centers of social and economic activity.

*Table 1. Details of the results of patrol activities from the Mataram City Social Service*

No.	Age	Address	Condition When Found	TKP	Amount
1.	16	Dasan agung	Berdagang	IC	1
2.	16	Dasan agung	Berdagang	IC	1
3.	15	Kuripan	Berdagang	Simpang Dasan Cermen	1
4.	16	Kuripan	Berdagang	Jalan Gora	1
5.	12	Kuripan	Berdagang	Jalan Gora	1

*Source: Data from the Mataram City Social Service, 2024*

2. Problems and Challenges

Even though the target criteria have been implemented well, there are still several challenges in achieving accurate program targets:

- Mobility of Street Children: Some children are difficult to track because they often change locations.

- Family Resistance: There are families who refuse their children's participation in the program, often due to lack of understanding or pressing economic needs.
- Resource Limitations: The number of staff and program budget are still limited, so not all children in need can be reached.

After knowing the criteria of how to determine the program's target, of course this study wants to know how well the program is in achieving the specified target. From the results of the researcher's interview, the answers to the questions above are given as follows:

*“Overall, the street children empowerment program in Mataram City has shown positive results in achieving its goals. Children who are included in this program are selected based on clear criteria, such as their socio-economic conditions, age, and activities on the streets. We have recorded around 200 street children in Mataram City, and currently, almost 70% of them are actively participating in this program. Although there are still some children who are difficult to reach due to high mobility, we continue to make direct approaches in the field to ensure that they can also feel the benefits of this program.” (Results of the interview on 20-11-2024 with Mr. Ridho).*

Based on interviews with various parties, it can be concluded that the street children empowerment program in Mataram City has succeeded in achieving its goals quite well. This program not only focuses on children in need but also provides a positive impact in the form of improving skills and access to education for them. However, there are several challenges, such as the high mobility of street children and resistance from their families, which also affect the achievement of the overall target.

The following is information that supports the evaluation of the effectiveness of the street children empowerment program in achieving the stated goals:



1. Number of Children Targeted by the Program

- Program Target: Engage 150 street children who have been identified by the Mataram City Social Service during the research period.
- Actual Achievement: Of the targets set, 120 children or 80% were successfully reached and participated in various program activities, which included education, skills training, and counseling services.

2. Success Indicators

This program has succeeded in achieving several target indicators as follows:

- Based on data provided by the Social Service, the decrease in the Number of Active Street Children: Before the program was implemented, there were 150 street children. After the program was implemented, this number dropped to 5 children or experienced a decrease.
- Increasing Economic Independence: Of the children who received skills training, 30 children or 75% successfully utilized the skills to earn additional income.
- Parental Involvement: The program involved 60 families (50%) of street children in counseling and mentoring sessions, which helped create a more supportive family environment.

3. Supporting Factors and Barriers

Supporter:

- Collaboration with NGOs: Collaboration with social institutions expands the reach and effectiveness of programs.
- Support from Community Leaders: Program socialization involving RT/RW heads and local leaders contributes to building community trust.

**Barriers:**

- High Mobility of Street Children: Some children are difficult to reach because they often move to locations.
- Limited Resources: Limited staff and budget are barriers to reaching all street children in need.

**Program Socialization**

The program socialization was carried out through various methods, including direct counseling in the field and through social media and print media. Discussion forums at the RT/RW level were held 10 times in the first six months. This activity aims to involve the local community in supporting the success of the street children empowerment program, by involving community leaders and families of street children. This information shows that the use of a community-based approach is very important in expanding understanding and support for the program (Mr. Ridho, 2024). 150 to only 5 children after the program was implemented (Mr. Ridho, 2024).

From the results of the interview with the Head of the Street Children Empowerment Section, he said that:

*"Our program socialization strategy is carried out through various methods, ranging from direct counseling in the field to the use of social media and print media. We also collaborate with community leaders, such as RT and RW heads, to approach the families of street children. Direct counseling is usually carried out in locations frequently visited by street children, such as markets and terminals, and we often approach street children and their families directly. One of the strategies we implement is to hold small forums at the sub-district or community level, so that local communities can participate. So far, our socialization has been carried out more in urban areas, especially in the center of Mataram City, where street children are easier to find. However, for the outskirts, the coverage still needs to be increased."* (Results of the interview dated 20-11-2024 with Mr. Ridho).

The following is information that supports the implementation of the socialization strategy for the street children empowerment program:

#### 1. Media Used for Socialization

- Print and Electronic Media:

- Information about this program is delivered through local newspapers such as the Lombok Post and community radio broadcasts.

- This activity is carried out periodically, 2-3 times each month in the early stages of the program.

- Social Media:

- Platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are used to disseminate information to the public, especially young people and parents.

- It is estimated that this program reaches more than 5,000 users each month through advertisements and posts.

#### 2. Direct Counseling to the Community

- Target Area:

Direct socialization is carried out in areas with the highest number of street children, namely the Ampenan, Cakranegara, and Sandubaya sub-districts.

- Method:

- Focus group discussion forums (FGD) are held at the RT/RW level involving community leaders, RT heads, and family representatives.

- In the first six months, 10 community meetings have been held.

#### 3. Collaboration with Third Parties

- Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):

NGOs such as the Peduli Anak Foundation were empowered to expand the reach of socialization at the community and school levels. The result of this collaboration was counseling for 200 children and 100 families in vulnerable communities.

- **Role of Religious and Traditional Leaders:** Religious and traditional leaders conveyed messages about the importance of this program in sermons, lectures, and traditional events.

#### 4. Participation in Local Activities

- **Markets and Community Activities:** Social Service officers conducted direct socialization at traditional markets and local community events, which successfully attracted the attention of more than 500 people.
- **Schools and Community Learning Activity Centers (PKBM):** Socialization was also carried out in schools and PKBM to educate children and adolescents about the benefits of the program. A total of 15 schools and 5 PKBM throughout Mataram City were involved in this activity.

#### 5. Documentation and Evaluation of Socialization

- **Documentation:**

Every socialization activity is documented through reports in the form of photos, videos, and narratives. This report is compiled and submitted monthly to the Head of the Social Service.

- **Evaluation Results:**

The level of community participation in socialization activities is relatively high, with 75% of the target audience admitting to having a better understanding of the program after participating in socialization. However, it should be noted that socialization is still more focused on urban areas, while suburban areas such as Sekarbela require more attention.

### **Program Objective Achievement**

Based on the evaluation results, the street children empowerment program has succeeded in achieving around 70% of the objectives set, especially in terms of skills training and non-formal education. As many as 30 children who participated in the skills training succeeded in using the skills to earn additional income, indicating an increase in their economic independence. However, challenges related to the high mobility of street children and limited resources remain obstacles to achieving the program's objectives in full (Mr. Ridho, 2024).

Based on the results of the interviews conducted by the researcher to obtain the following answers:

*"This program has succeeded in achieving around 70% of the target set. We focus on reducing the number of street children by providing skills training and access to non-formal education. In recent years, many children have managed to get out of life on the streets and have begun to develop skills to be independent. However, there are several obstacles that hinder the full achievement of the target, such as budget limitations and the number of assistants. Nevertheless, most of the program's objectives have been achieved, especially in terms of skills training. Children who have been involved in this program have shown increased self-confidence and the ability to seek a better life. However, we still face challenges when children are inconsistent in following the program, especially due to family or environmental factors. "* (Interview results dated 20-11-2024 with Mr. Ridho).

The results of this interview indicate that the street children empowerment program in Mataram City has achieved a significant level of success, which is around 70% of the target set. This success was achieved thanks to the main focus on skills training and access to non-formal education, which is designed to help street children escape the difficult cycle of life. The program has been successful in meeting most of its objectives, especially in improving children's life skills and providing them with opportunities to live a better life. However, to achieve the 100% target, an increase in budget, additional support staff, and more effective strategies are needed to overcome obstacles originating from families and the surrounding environment.

The following are the answers to the interview results regarding "Factors That Most Influence the Achievement of Program Objectives:

*"The level of support from street children's families is the main factor that influences the achievement of program objectives. When families provide support, children will find it easier to participate in the empowerment programs we offer. In addition, cooperation with other institutions, such as NGOs and community leaders, also plays an important role. They help us reach more children and provide the necessary understanding to families about this program. However, we often face obstacles caused by limited budget and human resources at the Social Service, which can slow down the implementation of the program. The readiness of children to participate in this program is also a very important factor. Some children may be reluctant to join because they feel more comfortable living on the streets, especially if the income they earn is enough to help their families. In addition, the funding aspect also plays a significant role. With an adequate budget, we can provide better training facilities and support their needs during this program. "* (Interview results dated 20-11-2024 with Mr. Ridho).

The results of the interview with Mr. Ridho on November 20, 2024 revealed various important factors that play a role in achieving the goals of the street children empowerment program in Mataram City. In the interview, Mr. Ridho emphasized that the success of this program is highly dependent on several key elements, including support from families, cooperation with partner institutions, children's readiness to get involved, and the availability of adequate budget. In addition, obstacles such as limited budget and human resources need to be overcome to increase the effectiveness of the program. With solid family support and active participation of children, achieving program goals will be easier.

### **Program Monitoring**

Monitoring of the program is carried out through direct visits to the activity locations and skills training, as well as through collaboration with partner institutions such as NGOs. Every three months, a monitoring report is prepared and submitted to the head of the service for further evaluation. This monitoring is important to ensure that program activities are running according to the objectives that have been set and have the desired impact on street children (Mr. Ridho, 2024).

From the information obtained by the researcher based on the interview, what monitoring mechanism is used to evaluate the implementation of the program:

*"We carry out monitoring through direct visits to the program activity locations, both at the skills training location and in the street children's environment. We also collaborate with partner institutions, such as NGOs, to obtain reports on the development of children involved in this program. Every three months, we compile a monitoring report which is then submitted to the head of the office as material for program evaluation." (Results of the interview on 20-11-2024 with Mr. Ridho).*

The results of the interview with Mr. Ridho on November 20, 2024 provide an overview of the monitoring mechanism applied in the street children empowerment program in Mataram City. Based on the interview above, it can be explained that monitoring of the street children empowerment program is carried out through several steps. Field officers and NGO partners routinely visit the activity location to observe the implementation of the program directly. Every three months, they compile a monitoring report that includes data on the number of participants, level of participation, and the results achieved during the period. This interview highlights that the monitoring mechanism for the street children empowerment program is carried out systematically and involves various parties. This monitoring process includes field visits, collaboration with partner institutions, and regular reporting, all of which play an important role. This approach not only ensures that the program is running according to plan, but also provides an opportunity for evaluation and adjustment, so that it can achieve a more optimal impact for street children.

### **Task Force**

Based on the results of my interview with Mr. Ahmad Samsudin Ibrahim on 11-22-2024, the question was "What are the steps taken by the task force in implementing the street children empowerment program?", as follows:

*"The first step we take is to collect data on street children. This data collection process includes identifying their location, age, daily activities, and family background. We go directly to the field to establish closeness, talk, and build trust to ensure the accuracy of the data we collect. After the data collection is complete, we continue with the socialization of the program to street children and their families, explaining the goals and benefits of the program, both through visits to their homes and group activities in the communities where they gather. Furthermore, we provide an empowerment program that includes job skills training, tutoring for non-formal education, and support for basic needs such as food and clothing. We also involve psychologists to provide counseling for children who need it. "*

The results of this interview describe the strategic steps taken by the task force in implementing the street children empowerment program in Mataram City. Each step is designed in stages and comprehensively, with the aim of ensuring the effectiveness and accuracy of the program's targets. The results of the interview showed that the steps taken by the task force were very structured, starting from data collection to social reintegration. This reflects a strong commitment to ensuring that the empowerment program is implemented effectively, providing a sustainable positive impact. Through a data-based approach, personal communication, and comprehensive support, this program seeks to provide a comprehensive solution to address the problems of street children in Mataram City.

From the data collection above, there are indicators that can be measured as the success of the Mataram City Social Service, including the following:

- Implementation of comprehensive and accurate data collection regarding the number, location, and condition of street children in Mataram City.
- The data collected will include complete information regarding age, family background, education status, and their needs.



- A database of street children is available that can be updated regularly.

Data that supports the task force's approach to ensuring that this program is right on target and effective in meeting the needs of street children is to look at the results of the program evaluation in the last 3 years, as many as 70% of street children who are the target of this program have received skills training. In addition, 40% of children who previously dropped out of school have now succeeded in continuing their education, both formally and informally. There has also been a 30% decrease in the number of street children in the urban area of Mataram City.

## **2. Discussion**

### **Interpretation of Results and Theoretical Context**

The results of the study indicate that the street children empowerment program in Mataram City has succeeded in achieving most of the objectives set, although there are still some obstacles that hinder full achievement. The decrease in the number of active street children from 150 to 5 children is a significant achievement that reflects the effectiveness of the program in reducing the number of children involved in street activities. Education is a human right and a means to realize other human rights (Sirait, 2017). Inequality in education is not only a social problem, but also an economic and development problem that can affect the growth and stability of countries (Sukarma et al. 2023). Family involvement in mentoring and counseling sessions contributes to the formation of a more supportive family environment, which in turn has an impact on children's motivation to actively participate in the program.

### **Supporting Factors and Barriers**

However, obstacles such as high mobility of street children and limited resources are major challenges in achieving the overall program objectives. Some street children are difficult to reach because they often move, while limited resources, both in terms of budget and number of assistants, hinder efforts to reach more children. This indicates the need for increased support and collaboration with third parties, including

NGOs and local communities, to improve program effectiveness and expand reach.

### **Recommendations for Program Development**

To improve program effectiveness in the future, improvements need to be made in funding aspects and strengthening collaboration with various parties. Community-based programs that involve more parents and community leaders can help reduce the problem of street children's mobility and expand access for children involved in the program. In addition, the development of technology-based programs, such as the use of applications or online platforms for education and skills training, can help reach street children who have high mobility and have difficulty participating in activities directly.

### **D. Conclusion**

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the street children empowerment program in Mataram City, focusing on its ability to achieve program objectives and overcome implementation challenges. The findings reveal that the program has demonstrated a commendable level of effectiveness, evidenced by its success in reducing the number of active street children and improving their access to education and vocational skills. Targeting strategies based on clear criteria, such as age, education status, and socioeconomic conditions, have ensured that the program reaches the intended beneficiaries. However, the mobility of street children and the socioeconomic limitations of their families remain significant barriers to achieving broader coverage.

The socialization efforts through information dissemination, counseling sessions, and collaboration with various stakeholders have proven effective in raising community awareness and involvement. Nevertheless, expanding these efforts to marginalized areas beyond urban centers is crucial for enhancing inclusivity and ensuring equitable access to the program's benefits.

While the program has successfully achieved approximately 70% of

its goals, including improving skills and the economic independence of street children, challenges related to limited funding and human resources persist. The program's monitoring mechanism, which involves regular observations, periodic reporting, and integrated evaluations, has been instrumental in maintaining alignment with its objectives. However, strengthening the evaluation process and optimizing reporting systems is necessary to ensure the program's sustainability and scalability.

In light of these findings, future research and program development should explore strategies to address the identified barriers, such as leveraging technology for broader outreach, enhancing funding sources, and fostering greater collaboration with local communities and non-governmental organizations. The integration of these elements can pave the way for a more robust and sustainable model for empowering street children in Mataram City and similar contexts. By addressing these challenges and opportunities, the program holds significant potential to contribute to the well-being and future prospects of street children, aligning with broader social development goals.

### **Acknowledgment**

Gratitude is expressed to the Chancellor of the Muhammadiyah University of Mataram, the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences the Muhammadiyah University of Mataram, the Head of the Department of Government Science, the Muhammadiyah University of Mataram, and all parties who cannot be mentioned one by one.

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