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**Empowering Poor and Rural Women in Aceh, Indonesia  
Through Entrepreneurial Education  
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**Abstract:**

This action research would design and enact entrepreneurial education to foster the economic potential and independent of poor and rural women in Aceh, Indonesia. The targeted population would involve housewives and widows in villages within Sub-District of Aceh, Indonesia.

The research would be implemented under the auspices of the University of Jember's Center for Research on Women's Rights. Implementation of action research would be conducted in the form of entrepreneurial workshops using instructional model that includes objectives, procedures, and evaluation strategies. Intervention of a unit plan with a list of questions on the participants' skills and hobbies would enable participants to reflect entrepreneurial concepts. Manipulation of indigenous cultural objects would also enable participants to explore creativity as a means of creating new opportunity. Other activities would include implementation of creating proposals, business plans, cash flow charts, and promotion plans. The workshop would culminate with participants in groups, proposing business structures that would enable women to obtain a significant measure of personal and financial independence.

Key Words: entrepreneurship, poor, business plan, cash flow charts, promotion plans.

## **Empowering Poor and Rural Women in Aceh, Indonesia Through Entrepreneurial Education**

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### **Introduction: Research Purpose and Central Questions**

The proposed action research would design and enact entrepreneurial education to foster the economic potential and independent of poor and rural women in Aceh, Indonesia.

In addition, this action research would assess women's progress in understanding entrepreneurial concepts and practices. The action research will be implemented under the auspices of the University of Jember's Center for Research on Women's Rights (Pusat Penelitian Tentang Hak-hak Asasi Wanita). The research would assist the Jember Center's mission of advancing Indonesian women's rights by enabling poor women to establish small independent businesses. The small capital venture would draw upon rural women's prevailing skills in small husbandry (chickens, ducks, and goats), sewing, home decoration, vegetable and mushroom cultivation, et al.

My pursuit of action research in human rights education coheres with my strong interest in the development of democratic and human rights processes and education in Indonesia, especially among women. My internship project in the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, Iowa, United States of America involved the implementation of entrepreneurial education to poor women in rural Java, Indonesia (please see the attached award). This action research would extend this project in democratic and human rights to poor and rural women in Aceh with little or no human rights. The proposed action research seeks to advance how the implementation of entrepreneurial education would help poor and rural women to be economically self-sufficient.

Although Indonesian government has, in recent years, promoted human rights developments, the plight of rural Indonesian women has gone largely unaddressed. They have labored for centuries under the restrictions of a highly patriarchal society (Solidaritas Perempuan 1998).

While they have long assumed the double burden of domestic and wage earning labor, they have not been able to keep the fruits of their work. As a consequence, rural women do not control and enjoy the social and economic results of human rights developments that are growing evident urban areas of Indonesia.

Working through the University of Jember, I would stay in rural Aceh for three weeks and conduct entrepreneurial workshops using an instructional model that includes objectives, procedures, and evaluation strategies. (Please see the attached lesson plans). Activities would include a list of questions on the participants' skills and hobbies reflecting entrepreneurial concepts based on the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at the University of Iowa's *Handbook* I obtained during my active involvement in the 2003 Seminar for Iowa High School Teacher and Youth Entrepreneurship Program and the University of Iowa's *VastTrac New Venture* program of 2007 (Please see the attached certificates).

Educational activities would include manipulation of indigenous cultural objects to explore creativity as a means of creating new opportunity. The workshop would culminate with participants in groups, proposing business structures that would enable women to obtain a significant measure of personal and financial independence. In this