



Preaching Rhetoric and Friday Sermon Training for KPI Department students at UIN Datokarama and Mosque Takmir

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Abstrak

Program pelatihan khutbah Jumat dan retorika dakwah ini meningkatkan pengetahuan dan pemahaman peserta mengenai peran imam dan khatib dalam pelaksanaan salat Jumat. Hal ini ditunjukkan melalui peningkatan pemahaman peserta terhadap adab imam dan khatib, rukun, syarat, dan sunah khatib, persiapan khutbah, bacaan Al-Qur'an, serta retorika dakwah dan performa penyampaian khutbah. Selain itu, yang tidak kalah penting, peserta mampu memilih materi ceramah dan khutbah yang selaras dengan ajaran Islam moderat serta berwawasan kebangsaan.

Kata Kunci: *Khutbah Jumat dan Retorika Dakwah.*

Abstract

The Friday sermon and preaching rhetoric training program increased knowledge and understanding of the role of the imam and preacher in Friday prayers. This was demonstrated by the training's ability to improve participants' understanding of the etiquette of an imam and preacher, the pillars, requirements, and sunnah of a preacher, sermon preparation, Quranic recitation, and preaching rhetoric and performance during sermon delivery. Furthermore, and importantly, participants were able to select lecture and sermon content that aligns with moderate Islamic teachings and fosters national insight.

Keywords: *Friday Sermon and Preaching Rhetoric.*

INTRODUCTION

Mosques play a crucial role and function in the lives of Muslims. Besides being a place of worship, mosques also serve as a venue for educational activities, training, economic development, and other public services. Historically, the mosque was the first facility built by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) when he migrated to Medina. The Prophet built the Quba Mosque on the outskirts of Medina, approximately three miles from the Prophet's Mosque (Al-Krenawi, 2016). The construction of the mosque at that time served not only as a symbol of early faith and a missionary strategy for Muslims, but also as a place for Muslims to gather for deliberation, strategize against the infidel Quraysh, and exchange information (Ridwanullah, A.I., & Herdiana, 2018).

Today, the role of mosques is not only as a place of worship, but also serves as a means of implementing Islamic philanthropy that leads to efforts to empower and welfare of the community. The role of mosques in community life is felt to be very significant because it functions as a forum for the development of Muslims including social, economic, cultural, and other aspects. Mosques are also symbols of the greatness of Islam, such as the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina (Ridwanullah, A. I., & Herdiana, 2018). Given how crucial this role is, good management is needed to carry out its functions properly. Mosque takmir, as the party given the responsibility to lead the management of the mosque, should have good capacity in aspects of mosque management as well as in strategies and methods of da'wah. Thus, it can inspire the wider community who rarely have contact with the mosque to participate in the prosperity of the mosque.

To carry out its functions, a mosque requires human resources as managers who regulate all mosque activities. KPI students and mosque administrators must be able to carry out the mosque's function as a place of worship to Allah (Hablun Minallah) and a place for social worship among fellow human beings (hablun minannas nās) so that the mosque can provide benefits to others. As mosque administrators, mosque administrators must have the management capacity to carry out these two functions of worship. To support this, mosque administrators should master the skills of da'wah rhetoric. This is considered very important considering that there is still a significant shortage of mosque administrators who are engaged in this field, while the public's need for information on Islamic treasures with engaging rhetoric is very urgent.

Based on previous research findings, it was found that the ability to preach among mosque administrators is still low, such as research by Ihwan Mahmudi, who found that mosque administrators in a mosque still experience difficulties in preaching, especially in preaching management and the use of information technology in preaching (Mahmudi, I., Setyaningsih, R., & Affandi, M. T, 2021). This results in concerns that preaching, packaged in religious lectures and Friday sermons, is merely a ritual to fulfill obligations, not touching broader and more impactful aspects (Marsudi, M., & Ilyas, Y, 2020). This reality has an impact on the lack of public appreciation for the profession of mosque imam or mosque administrator and students. In some communities, this profession is often looked down upon and tends to be neglected. In fact, the position of mosque administrators and imams plays a very crucial role in fostering the Muslim community and fortifying it from deviant teachings.

Mosque administrators and imams, as well as KPI students, must possess the skills to preach appropriately, well, and correctly so that those invited to goodness not only have no objections to doing so. Our initial observations revealed that each mosque has 1-2 active mosque administrators, but their roles are minimal, limited to serving as muezzins. Yet, these administrators have significant potential to possess the skills to understand and deliver sermons, to

serve as Friday prayer preachers, and to be mosque imams. Similarly, among KPI students at UIN Datokarama Palu, we still found several students who lacked the ability to use rhetoric effectively. Therefore, rhetorical training in preaching and Friday sermons is needed for mosque administrators and KPI students at UIN Datokarama Palu.

The objectives of this Community Service Program (PKM) are to equip mosque administrators and students of the Islamic Broadcasting Communication (KPI) Study Program at UIN Datokarama Palu with adequate knowledge and skills in preaching rhetoric and the delivery of Friday sermons. Through this program, participants are expected not only to understand the principles and techniques of effective rhetoric, but also to be prepared as agents of positive change who are able to convey Islamic messages in a persuasive, ethical, and inspiring manner. In the long term, this activity aims to contribute to improving the knowledge, attitudes, and morals of the community through Friday sermons that are meaningful, relevant, and able to touch the hearts of the congregation.

After participating in the activities, mosque administrators and KPI students are expected to gain significant benefits, particularly an increased understanding of how to apply rhetoric effectively in preaching and in performing the role of Friday preacher. This improved competence is expected to enhance the quality of sermons and da'wah delivery, making them more systematic, engaging, and impactful for the congregation.

Preaching and Friday sermons play a strategic role in shaping religious understanding, moral values, and social awareness within Muslim communities. In this context, rhetoric becomes a crucial competence for preachers and khatibs, as it determines how religious messages are conveyed clearly, persuasively, and meaningfully to the congregation. Effective preaching rhetoric not only emphasizes mastery of religious content but also requires communication skills, audience awareness, and contextual relevance so that sermons can touch the hearts and minds of listeners (Hefni, 2015; Abdullah & Rahman, 2018). Inadequate rhetorical skills often result in sermons that are monotonous, difficult to understand, or disconnected from contemporary social realities.

Students of the Islamic Broadcasting Communication (KPI) Department are prospective da'i, preachers, and communicators of Islam who are expected to possess strong rhetorical abilities. However, several studies indicate that many students still lack practical experience and structured training in sermon delivery, particularly in the context of Friday sermons that have specific pillars, requirements, and ethical standards (Saepudin, 2019; Farihah, 2020). Similarly, mosque takmir as community religious leaders often rely on traditional preaching methods that may not fully engage modern congregations, especially younger audiences (Ismail & Anwar, 2021).

Therefore, preaching rhetoric and Friday sermon training for KPI students at UIN Datokarama Palu and mosque takmir is essential as a form of community service and capacity building. This training is designed to strengthen

participants' understanding of sermon structure, rhetorical techniques, voice control, language use, and the selection of sermon content that reflects moderate Islamic values and social harmony. Through systematic training and practice, participants are expected to become competent preachers who are able to deliver Friday sermons that are relevant, inspiring, and transformative for the community (Rahman et al., 2022; Zainuddin, 2023).

The problem-solving framework for this PKM activity is designed in an integrated and systematic manner through training-based activities. The program begins with an explanation of the concept of rhetoric in preaching and Friday sermons, including its philosophical foundations, followed by guided exercises to identify the root causes of common problems faced in sermon delivery. Furthermore, participants are involved in the design and implementation of rhetoric training, accompanied by supervision and mentoring in drafting sermon scripts. The program is strengthened through practical training sessions that allow participants to directly practice preaching and delivering Friday sermons. Finally, an evaluation is conducted to assess the outcomes of the training and the extent to which participants have achieved the expected competencies.

METHOD

This community service project employs a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach. PAR is a collaborative and reflective methodology that actively involves community members in the process of identifying problems, implementing actions, and evaluating changes with the aim of producing both practical solutions and social transformation. Through PAR, participants are positioned not merely as research subjects, but as co-researchers who contribute their experiences, perspectives, and local knowledge to the change process. This approach emphasizes collective learning, empowerment, and sustainable impact, making it particularly relevant for community service activities oriented toward capacity building and social improvement (Reason & Bradbury, 2015; Chevalier & Buckles, 2019). The desired change in this Community Service Program (PKM) is the understanding of mosque administrators and KPI students at UIN Datokarama Palu regarding the procedures for delivering Friday sermons and sermons, with material that will strengthen the instillation of national values within a diverse framework. This Community Service (PKM) activity will be conducted in the form of a two-day workshop in September 2025 by a team of lecturers from the Faculty of Da'wah and Islamic Communication at UIN Datokarama Palu and the Central Sulawesi Provincial MUI Board. This training activity begins with an initial observation of the problems experienced by partners, the training process, and an evaluation of the training, with a total duration of September 2025.

Preparation Phase

The preparation phase for the activity began in July 2025. Preparations included obtaining a permit for the event, which would be held at the Islamic Center of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in Central Sulawesi

Province. After obtaining the permit from the MUI, the team conducted outreach to mosque administrators in the Marawola District, Sigi Regency, both through social media and by visiting them in person with official invitations. They encouraged them to participate in the training on da'wah rhetoric and Friday sermons. After the preparations were completed, several mosque administrators, imams, and student candidates were identified as ready to participate.

Implementation Stage

The activity was held over two days in September 2025 at the Islamic Center of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) of Central Sulawesi Province. Prior to the training, participants were required to complete a registration form to participate in the training on da'wah rhetoric and Friday sermons. The resource persons for this community service program were the PKM team, lecturers from the Faculty of Da'wah and Islamic Communication, UIN Datokarama Palu, and the MUI Board of Central Sulawesi Province. The training focused on four topics: the jurisprudence of Friday sermons, national and religious insight, da'wah rhetoric and stage management techniques, as well as understanding the science of tajwid and mastering tahshin (correct pronunciation of Quranic recitation).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This community service activity consists of the preparation stage and the implementation stage of the activity. Preparation for the field was carried out in September 2025. The preparation included the activity of taking care of the implementation permit letter which would be submitted to the Mosque Management. Then delivering the permit letter to the Mosque Management and after obtaining permission from the Head of the Mosque Ta'mir after that conducting socialization to the mosque ta'mir and KPI students about the Preaching Rhetoric and Friday Sermon training program. In the invitation to the Preaching Rhetoric and Friday Sermon training to prospective participants, the community service team prepared and confirmed the name, origin of the mosque, the number of registered participants for readiness to prepare the activity location, activity management and training preparation at the activity location.

The training will be held in September 2025, according to the agreed schedule for the participants. The training will take place at the Al-Markaz Al-Islami Complex of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in Central Sulawesi in Sigi Regency. The training will cover four topics: the jurisprudence of Friday sermons, understanding Quranic recitations (tahshin) and tajweed, national and religious insight, and preaching rhetoric and stagecraft techniques.

Strengthening the Understanding of Friday Sermon Fiqh

The first training material was strengthening the understanding of the jurisprudence of Friday sermons delivered by Dr. Adam, M.Pd., M.Si. In his presentation, he delivered material related to the jurisprudence of Friday sermons which is an important part of religious practice in Islam. Although being

a Friday preacher is not obligatory for every Muslim, understanding and mastering the art of preaching is very important, especially for mosque administrators. As a representative or *fardhu kifayah*, the preacher is responsible for providing advice, warnings, and teachings to the congregation which is not only limited to certain people, but to all Muslims who are required to perform Friday prayers. In addition, every Muslim is encouraged to have the ability to preach as preparation in case at any time needed to replace the preacher who is unable to attend.

Friday sermons are considered sacred, and their actions and words will be widely observed. Therefore, it is crucial for them to adhere to both Islamic and customary laws regarding sermon delivery. Good language skills and extensive knowledge will help them deliver high-quality, informative, and engaging sermons for the congregation. Therefore, in their presentations, the presenters deliver training materials using a lecture method, accompanied by hands-on practice. These Friday sermon simulations allow participants to practice their sermons and work together to identify areas for improvement. In addition to sermon delivery techniques, guidance is also provided on sermon writing. Participants who have the potential to write their own sermons are provided with guidance on how to write good sermons, emphasizing moderate Islamic teachings.

Participants who had difficulty composing their own sermons were taught how to find sermon materials that align with the values of religious moderation, such as searching for sermon materials through the NU online portal and other websites. Sermon materials serve to reinforce the congregation's religious narrative, impacting their understanding with new perspectives that influence their perspectives. Therefore, sermon materials should be free from hate speech, thus strengthening the congregation's religious life, fostering coexistence, tolerance, and respect for groups outside their own. Furthermore, when delivering a Friday sermon, the preacher's physical appearance must be considered. Although there are no written regulations regarding the style of clothing that must be worn during the sermon, the clothing chosen must be appropriate and appropriate to the atmosphere of the sermon and make a good impression on the congregation. The preacher's ability to present the sermon in polite, straightforward, and structured language will make the sermon easy to understand and have a positive impact. Conversely, using sloppy language can diminish the sermon's appeal and prevent it from effectively achieving its mission. The Friday preacher also needs to have a broad understanding, not only of religion but also of the social context. This enables the preacher to deliver a sermon that is relevant to the realities of the congregation's lives, offers solutions to problems faced, and provides a wise Islamic perspective on contemporary issues. In this way, the preacher can play a significant role in empowering the congregation and strengthening their faith.

The preacher's ability to deliver the sermon in an engaging and captivating manner is also crucial. A dynamic delivery style, the use of concrete examples, and the inclusion of a moderate amount of humor can make the sermon more enjoyable and absorbing for the congregation. This will help increase the absorption of the message and motivate and inspire the congregation to do good and avoid evil in accordance with Islamic teachings. By maintaining all these aspects, the preacher can ensure that each sermon he delivers not only fulfills the formal requirements of religious ritual but also provides tangible and positive benefits to the Muslim community who listens to it.

Khatibs need to pay close attention to various technical aspects to ensure the smooth delivery of sermons and to avoid potential difficulties during the khutbah. Proper preparation begins with choosing neat, simple, and polite clothing that is appropriate for the mosque environment. In addition, khatibs should ensure that they are in good physical and mental condition, as delivering a sermon requires stamina, focus, and clarity of thought. Adequate preparation of sermon material is also essential, which can be achieved through discussions with colleagues, reviewing relevant references, and preparing clear outlines or bullet points to help structure the message systematically.

For novice khatibs, prior practice through lectures or religious study sessions is highly recommended before delivering a Friday sermon, as this helps build confidence and improve delivery skills. The selection of sermon material should focus on issues that are important, urgent, and relevant to the congregation's context, drawing from various sources such as religious texts, books, newspapers, online resources, and personal experiences. Khatibs should also avoid delivering sermons when they are unwell, mentally unsettled, hungry, or thirsty, as these conditions can negatively affect performance. Furthermore, when addressing a large congregation, khatibs need to adjust their voice volume, tone, tempo, and enthusiasm, while using simple logic and easily understood language. Attention should also be given to supporting facilities, including appropriate attire, as well as the preparation of time and place, so that the sermon can be delivered in accordance with the pillars, requirements, and sunnah of the khutbah without unnecessary disturbances.

Strengthening the Understanding of Reading Tahshin and Tajweed of the Qur'an.

The next topic in this community service activity is strengthening the understanding of tahsin and tajwib recitation of the Qur'an. These two disciplines are a unity that must be mastered as an absolute requirement for reading the Qur'an. Tahsin is a method of reading the Qur'an properly and correctly, observing the rules of tajwid. Tahsin is not only reading the Qur'an according to these rules, but also striving to improve the recitation of the Qur'an so that it is pleasant to listen to. Therefore, in this regard, the discipline of tahsin is much broader than tajwid. Because, in tahsin in addition to using the rules of tajwid, it also strives to improve and beautify the recitation of the Qur'an with a

melodious voice. Thus, in learning tahsin al-Qur'an, tajwid is automatically included.

The activity was led by Ustadz Mokh Ulil Hidayat, who guided and mentored participants in reciting verses from the Quran. Participants were asked to recite a verse from the Quran one by one, and then provided input to perfect their recitation. Most participants already had good reading skills, but needed to improve their tajweed readings. During the activity, participants were asked to provide feedback to each other to perfect their Quranic recitations. In this training, the speaker first focused on the participants' ability to recite Surah Al-Fatihah properly and correctly with a beautiful (melodious) voice. Participants were guided to at least be able to recite Surah Al-Fatihah with a melodious voice. This is because mosque administrators, most of whom are imams, will repeatedly recite this verse during the congregational prayers they lead.

Understanding National Insight

Ustadz Adam delivered the topic on national insight. As preachers, mosque administrators are required to understand national insight so that the content of their sermons can strengthen the bonds between all components of a pluralistic society. Furthermore, understanding national insight is crucial to avoid the infiltration of ideas that contradict the spirit of nationalism, multiculturalism, and moderate Islamic teachings. National insight is a crucial foundation that can give rise to ideas, attitudes, and determination rooted in Indonesian cultural values. Furthermore, national insight serves as a means to strengthen and advance the unity and integrity of the Indonesian nation.

The delivery of this national insight material also aims to integrate socio-cultural values into preaching, as exemplified by the Walisongo (Nahdliyyah). The characteristics sought to be developed in this community service activity emphasize learning to live with differences, mutual respect and understanding, mutual trust and an emphasis on open-mindedness, appreciation and interdependence, and nonviolent conflict resolution and reconciliation based on national values.

This national insight material also aims to instill the values of religious moderation, which can be implemented through preaching activities, both religious lectures and Friday sermons. These values of religious moderation are intended to foster habits, empowerment, and inculcation in daily life. Preachers should be leaders who encourage the community to behave as exemplified by the Prophet during the laying of the Black Stone, namely respecting differences and upholding the values of ummah unity.

Preaching Rhetoric and Stage Mastery Techniques

The next material in this community service activity is preaching rhetoric and stage mastery techniques presented by Ustadz Hairuddin Cikka. The speaker emphasized that the technique or method of preaching is not the same as a lecture or speech. Friday sermons must be carried out in accordance with the rules determined by Islamic law. The form of communication in a sermon is one-

way communication where the listeners (congregation) are not allowed to respond to the material being presented. So, the sermon must be done in a loud voice, without pauses, and without prompting the congregation to speak out or provide feedback. Then the method and content of the Friday sermon are closely related to the legal requirements and harmony of the sermon. The conditions for a Friday sermon to be valid are conditions or actions that must exist or be carried out before and at the time of carrying out the sermon. Meanwhile, the pillars of the sermon are the elements or parts included in the sermon itself.

During his presentation, Ustadz Hairuddin Cikka also explained rhetorical techniques for preaching and preparation for delivering sermons. Following the presentation, participants engaged in a brief hands-on practice session to gauge their understanding of the material. This preaching technique emphasizes two-way communication, allowing the congregation to respond, even if not through direct questions. Congregation responses are expressions that demonstrate their listening comprehension. Sermons should also include a little entertainment to avoid boredom.

The participants gained from this Friday sermon and preaching rhetoric training, including insights into the proper procedures for being an imam and preacher, as well as the correct pronunciation of Quranic verses with proper tajweed. Following the training, the community service team created a detailed schedule of preacher practices for October 2025 for further presentation and evaluation. The theoretical material presented in this training focused on the role of imam and preacher. The speaker explained the role of imam in prayer, covering the recitation of prayer recitations and the primary requirements for being a preacher and imam in prayer. The theoretical explanation of the preacher lasted 90 minutes and was followed attentively by the participants.

CONCLUSION

The Friday sermon and preaching rhetoric training program increased knowledge and understanding of the role of the imam and preacher in Friday prayers. This was demonstrated by the training's ability to improve participants' understanding of the etiquette of an imam and preacher, the pillars, requirements, and sunnah of a preacher, sermon preparation, Quranic recitation, and preaching rhetoric and performance during sermon delivery. Furthermore, and importantly, participants were able to select lecture and sermon content that aligns with moderate Islamic teachings and national insight.

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