pekopeko

women
empowering
women

instagram  : @pekopeko_bags
Indonesian women continue to be more vulnerable to poverty, repression, and lag behind in workforce participation, access to basic services and indicators of wellbeing. Gender inequality is persistent, underpinned by social norms and reinforced by institutions.

we’ve made progress, but gaps remained...
Feeding families. Nursing the sick. Producing half the world’s food supply and performing nearly two-thirds of the world’s work hours, according to the UN.

All these responsibilities and many more fall on the shoulders of women of the world, who represent over half of our global population. Yet they receive only one-tenth of the world’s income, own only one percent of its property, and are subject to disproportionate amounts of violence, discrimination, and impoverishment relative to their male fellows.

Clearly, this needs to change. Women’s empowerment not only corrects a great injustice in the world, but sets the stage for greater reduction of poverty overall, as resources in women’s hands mean greater household expenditures on health and education.

But how do we alleviate a problem that seems to be so systemic, so pervasive, and so entrenched in so many parts of Indonesia?
Pekopeko believes that sustainable livelihood is necessary to eradicate gender inequality.
We start with educating women and refining their embroidery skills. We train a small group of artisans to become craft managers who serve as catalytic agents in creating change and empowerment in their communities.

Our pilot project was a collaborative project with Yakkum Rehabilitation Centre to assist women with disabilities to work, earn a living, and become respected members of their communities. In Indonesia, it is almost impossible for disabled persons to gain employment. Opportunities for earning a living and becoming economically useful members of communities are extremely limited. Most disabled people have received only a limited education and few receive skills training. However, making handicrafts of high quality is well within the abilities of most physically disabled people. Unfortunately, our collaboration with Yakkum Rehabilitation Centre has ended due to their internal circumstances.

During our transition towards the third collaboration project, we trained housemaid ladies in Mlati on their free time to work on the embroidery.

By getting an extra income, the housemaid could afford their children education tuition and personal needs.

Our third collaboration projects are started on August 2017 with ladies prisoner in LP Wirogunan (Wirogunan State Prison). The women are faced with several challenges in order to gain psychological and economic independence. The lack of self-esteem, confidence and community spirit, are challenging factors to achieving economic success. Pekopeko builds their self-confidence and equips them with practical skills to start income-generating activities. It is also prepare the women for a successful reintegration into society upon their release.

The lesson learned from this collaboration was that people were able to get beyond biases they have toward the prisoners and a “throw away the key” mentality. When they see the bags, they see a talented human being’s creation who is contributing to the community through their art, not as a prisoner. We use art as a vehicle to break down people’s stereotypes and biases towards prisoners.
Women empowering women

Pattern Cutting  Illustration Drawing  Embroidering  Sewing  Voilal

collaborators

Difable ladies
Yakkum Rehabilitation Centre
April 2016 - February 2017

House maid
Mlati - Sleman
January 2017 - now

Lady prisoners
LP Wirogunan
August 2017 - now

Survivor of 1965 Massacre
January 2018 - now
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client shares her/his idea of their own bag. pekopeko translates the idea into design.

pekopeko designing the embroidery illustration

pekopeko and craft manager discuss the details of embroidery. craft manager then shares the work to the other lady prisoners.

pekopeko and craft manager of lady prisoners

a customized and hand-embroidered bag specifically made for each client
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