

## **ABSTRACT**

Agus Rudiansah. 2026. "**Community Empowerment through Paper Waste Handicrafts (A Study of the Galuh Peduli Rasa Group in Cidewa Hamlet, Dewasari Village, Cijeungjing District, Ciamis Regency)**". Department of Community Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Siliwangi, Tasikmalaya.

*The issue of paper waste that has not been optimally utilized remains a challenge for communities, both from environmental and economic perspectives. In fact, paper waste has the potential to be processed into handicraft products with functional and economic value. Through community empowerment activities, paper waste processing can serve as an alternative source of income while also contributing to environmental conservation. This study aims to examine the process of community empowerment through paper waste handicrafts carried out by the Galuh Peduli Rasa (GAPURA) Group in Cidewa Hamlet, Dewasari Village, Cijeungjing District, Ciamis Regency. This research employed a qualitative approach with a phenomenological method. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. The results show that the community empowerment process was implemented through five empowerment strategies, namely enabling, strengthening, protection, support, and maintenance. Empowerment activities were carried out through the establishment of groups as activity forums, skills training in paper waste processing, continuous mentoring, division of roles among members, and support from the village government and related stakeholders. This process has significantly enhanced the knowledge, skills, and creativity of group members, enabling people who previously lacked technical expertise to produce innovative craft products. Economically, this productive activity provides crucial additional income for group members to help meet their daily needs, while fundamentally changing the public's perception of paper waste. Waste, once considered worthless and a burden on the environment, has now been transformed into a resource with high economic value and is environmentally friendly.*

**Keywords: Community Empowerment, Paper Waste**