



The Role of the Library in Enhancing Student Literacy at MA Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan

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Abstract:

The role of the school library is very important in increasing students' literacy and interest in reading at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan. This research aims to determine the role of school libraries in increasing student literacy at MA Sumber Bungur Pamekasan. This research uses a qualitative approach, data is collected through direct observation, interviews with school principals and librarians. The results of the research show that one of the roles of libraries in increasing student literacy is by developing book collections in the school library at MA Sumber Bungur which are very diverse and relevant to students' needs. Apart from that, the school principal provides book recommendations and holds interesting activities to increase students' interest in reading. It was also found that students who regularly visit the library tend to have better literacy skills and a high interest in reading. Thus, the school library at MA Sumber Bungur can be considered the main driver in increasing students' literacy and interest in reading.

Keywords:

Library; Student Literacy; Motivation to learn

Abstrak:

Peran perpustakaan sekolah sangat penting dalam meningkatkan literasi dan minat baca siswa di Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui peran perpustakaan sekolah dalam meningkatkan literasi siswa di MA Sumber Bungur Pamekasan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif, data dikumpulkan melalui observasi langsung, wawancara dengan kepala sekolah, pustakawan dan siswa. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peran perpustakaan dalam meningkatkan literasi siswa salah satunya adalah dengan pengembangan koleksi buku di perpustakaan sekolah di MA Sumber Bungur sangat beragam dan relevan dengan kebutuhan siswa. Selain itu, kepala sekolah memberikan rekomendasi buku dan mengadakan kegiatan menarik untuk meningkatkan minat baca siswa. Ditemukan juga bahwa siswa yang rajin mengunjungi perpustakaan cenderung memiliki kemampuan literasi yang lebih baik dan minat baca yang tinggi. Dengan demikian, perpustakaan sekolah di MA Sumber Bungur dapat dianggap sebagai pendorong utama dalam meningkatkan literasi dan minat baca siswa.

Kata Kunci:

Perpustakaan; Literasi Siswa; Motivasi belajar

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INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) released the results of the 2022 PISA study. The 2022 PISA results show that Indonesia's literacy performance ranking has risen by 5 to 6 positions compared to PISA 2018 (Peringkat Indonesia Pada PISA 2022 Naik 5-6 Posisi Dibanding 2018, 2023). This indicates that the efforts made have yielded some results, although they are not yet optimal.

The success of this achievement can be attributed to several components of the education system, one of which is the library. A library is not merely a storage place for books but also a vital source of information for teaching and learning activities. By ensuring that school libraries function properly, we can improve the quality of education by providing effective and efficient access to knowledge and information for teachers and students. Therefore, the role of libraries in advancing the school community is crucial for enlightening the nation.

School libraries are a crucial foundation for students, providing access to various resources that support learning and personal development. According to Library Law No. 43 of 2017, libraries play a crucial role in providing services to readers, increasing reading interest, expanding knowledge, and contributing to improving the quality of education and promoting national intelligence. With a library in the school, students have easier access to explore various topics, deepen their understanding, and develop essential literacy skills for future success. This creates a dynamic learning environment that supports the intellectual growth of students (Rohim & Rahmawati, 2020).

With a library in the school, students can enhance their literacy and broaden their knowledge and understanding of various information they may not yet know. This initiative is important to instill early on through the school library. The school library serves as an essential resource within the school environment. For instance, the library at Madrasah Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan has successfully improved student literacy through the creative programs it offers.

The library at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan serves as a repository for various types of library materials, both physical and digital, such as books, magazines, newspapers, films, videos, and more (Wahid, personal communication, March 12, 2024). The school library provides essential support for educational activities. Thus, school libraries come in various forms according to the level of education and are rich in literature to meet the needs of their readers.

The library serves as a cornerstone for educational advancement, as it is the primary source of information for students. In an era of continuously evolving technology, libraries must adapt to remain relevant. As centers of educational integration, libraries should not only provide collections in various media but also incorporate the latest technologies to facilitate learning. This is crucial because libraries are not just places to find information but also spaces to explore knowledge and develop skills. Therefore, it is essential for libraries to continually update themselves to meet students' learning needs and effectively support the educational process (Mujahidin et al., 2022).

Several previous studies have been compiled by the author, including research on the role of libraries in increasing early childhood reading interest (Fitriani & Harjanty, 2023). This study revealed that libraries can enhance children's reading interest, with children who love to read being able to optimally develop creative thinking patterns within themselves. In contrast, this research explores school library programs to increase students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur Pamekasan. Another study is about the influence of school library utilization on students' reading interests (Astuti et al., 2020). That study was quantitative and aimed to analyze the extent of the influence of school libraries on students' reading interests. In contrast, this research uses a qualitative approach by describing the role of the school library in increasing students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur Pamekasan.

This paper addresses the core issue of the role of school libraries in enhancing students' literacy and reading interests. Based on this topic, the researcher formulated three research questions: (1) the role of the school library in increasing students' literacy and reading interest, (2) efforts to improve students' reading interest, and (3) how the school library can develop creative programs to enhance students' reading interest. Based on the three research questions above, this study aims to describe the role of the school library in enhancing students' literacy and reading interests, as well as to evaluate the success of the creative programs implemented by the MA Sumber Bungur library in achieving these goals. The main objective of this research is to provide new insights into the importance of the school library's role in improving student literacy. Additionally, the study aims to identify actions to increase reading interest and present concrete examples of creative programs that can be adopted by the MA Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan library.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach (Sugiono, 2008) with descriptive qualitative analysis to meticulously describe the role of the school library in enhancing students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur. The subjects of this research include the school principal, the head librarian, and students at MA Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan.

Data were collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The obtained data were then analyzed using qualitative data analysis, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion (Gunawan, 2022) to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the role of the library in developing students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Library at MA Sumber Bungur in Enhancing Students' Reading Literacy

The library at MA Sumber Bungur serves as a learning resource, particularly for non-formal education. It provides access to a variety of reading materials, flexible hours, and services, all at an affordable cost. The library's role in enhancing reading literacy is crucial for creating a skilled generation in the field of education. Through reading books in the library, students can expand their knowledge and understanding. Additionally, the library at MA Sumber Bungur fosters a reading culture and enhances information literacy through school literacy programs (Wahid, personal communication, March 12, 2024). Such activities can assist students in their learning processes by promoting reading, writing, listening, and information-seeking skills (PENDIT, 2008).

The library at MA Sumber Bungur acts as a literacy center where students can practice their skills. It significantly aids the learning process by providing essential resources for both teachers and students (Luluk, observation, March 14, 2024). Additionally, MA Sumber Bungur utilizes access to the library to allow students to gain extra knowledge beyond the classroom, which is crucial for enhancing their literacy and understanding. Thus, the library at MA Sumber Bungur also plays a vital role in supporting student learning. It serves as a knowledge hub to inspire innovation and creativity, as well as a catalyst for empowering the community through increased literacy and literacy-based potential development.

The library at MA Sumber Bungur also serves as a platform to cultivate culture and support reading interest and information literacy. Therefore, the role of the library in MA Sumber Bungur in literacy is not limited to classroom learning; it can also be extended to

out-of-class learning. This approach helps maintain diversity and freshness in the delivery of information (Azizah, 2018).

Efforts to Increase Students' Reading Interest at MA Sumber Bungur

Efforts to increase students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur cannot be solely borne by families, communities, or educational institutions. However, MA Sumber Bungur plays a crucial role that must be carried out collectively. Teachers and librarians play a central role in enhancing students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur and within the community, which requires a high level of reading interest from them. Therefore, MA Sumber Bungur must exemplify the importance of modeling reading interest for students (Aulia, personal communication, March 15, 2024). If teachers and librarians do not possess a high interest in reading, they will undoubtedly struggle to carry out their responsibilities in fostering students' reading interest.

Librarians, as individuals responsible for serving students at MA Sumber Bungur, also play a proactive role in fostering reading interest in the community from an early age by teaching, guiding, and setting examples for the students at MA Sumber Bungur. Similarly, teachers have a crucial role in teaching, mentoring, and modeling behaviors that enhance students' reading interests at MA Sumber Bungur. Therefore, it is essential to introduce reading habits to students from a young age, as this helps them comprehend the content they read. Reading should not only be seen as an obligation but also as a desire that stems from within the students. As educators and parents, we must support students in cultivating the habit of reading from an early age. This support should not be limited to the school environment but is also important in the home or surrounding community, providing positive experiences related to reading (Kasiyun, 2015). The utilization of engaging learning materials can also help boost students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur.

According to Astuti (2013:28), there are several ways to increase reading interest, including providing independent reading time for students. Giving students dedicated time for independent reading allows them to explore their interests and deepen their understanding of the world through literacy. Activities such as book discussions, literacy festivals, or writing workshops are conducted at MA Sumber Bungur, providing opportunities for students to engage in a dynamic and creative reading culture (Sri, personal communication, March 13, 2024).

Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur creates a comfortable reading environment: A comfortable and conducive atmosphere for reading in classrooms or the school library

helps students focus and enjoy the reading experience (Luluk, observation, 2024). MA Sumber Bungur selects engaging reading materials by ensuring that the available reading resources are relevant and appealing to students' interests, motivating them to read more. Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur also provides access to a variety of reading materials: MA Sumber Bungur ensures that the school library or reading room is equipped with interesting and relevant books to encourage students to read (Wahid, personal communication, March 12, 2024).

Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur serves as a positive example, as evidenced by the role of teachers in enhancing students' reading interests and habits, inspiring them to explore the world of literacy. MA Sumber Bungur organizes group reading activities in the library or classrooms, fostering a supportive environment and building a collective spirit among students in reading (Elendiana, 2020).

Programs to Enhance Reading Literacy Among Students at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur

The literacy program at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur is essential for fostering students' reading interests. With this program, students gain broader access to various engaging reading materials and expand their knowledge through activities such as reading, discussions, and theater performances. Poetry reading competitions, storytelling, and mobile libraries all enrich the literacy experiences of students at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur. The existing literacy programs at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur are enjoyable and interactive, encouraging student participation in reading and writing while nurturing a strong literacy culture within the school (Aulia, personal communication, March 15, 2024).

To increase students' reading interest, this program involves various activities that stimulate literacy interest, including a more interactive library program and extracurricular activities focused on developing students' literacy at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur. One step that Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur can take is to introduce routine activities such as the "15 Minutes Reading" program at the beginning of each lesson, where students will read and respond to books by coming to the front of the class and summarizing the main points of the book (Luluk, observation, 2024). The library at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur also invites local authors and literacy figures to give lectures or writing workshops for students, helping to enhance their appreciation for literary works and improve their reading strategies (Wahid, personal communication, March 12, 2024).

In addition to the activities conducted at the Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur library, some programs integrate school initiatives with literacy programs in local libraries or community literacy initiatives in the village or city. Through visits to libraries or collaborations with literacy communities, students can be exposed to a variety of literature and meet individuals who share their reading interests. This not only broadens students' perspectives but also provides a fresh motivation to read more. With the presence of a school library, students will be more motivated to read actively (Ahmad et al., 2024) because the relationship between students' reading interests and literacy programs at school is vital in enriching their literacy skills.

The literacy program at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur also serves as a crucial driver for stimulating students' reading interests. By offering engaging and diverse literacy activities, students can become more involved in the reading and writing learning processes. An effective literacy program not only provides knowledge about language and literature but also presents books and reading materials that are relevant and appealing to students. Ensuring the availability of books that meet students' needs in the MA Sumber Bungur library also requires involving students in the book selection process. With an integrated literacy program aligned with the curriculum, students can directly experience the benefits of what they learn in class by applying it in reading and writing activities outside of school. A personalized approach within the literacy program can also help recognize individual students' reading interests and provide appropriate support to enhance their reading enthusiasm. Overall, the positive relationship between students' reading interests and the literacy program at MA Sumber Bungur can create a learning environment that inspires a passion for learning and supports the development of robust literacy skills among students (Aziz & Nugraheni, 2022).

In a library, programs designed to enhance students' literacy culture are essential. Various literacy programs at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur have been implemented, such as the 15-minute reading session before lessons, which has proven effective in increasing students' reading interest. By spending 15 minutes each day reading, students will accumulate a total of 5,475 minutes of reading per year, equivalent to 91 hours and 15 minutes. Reading non-academic books can help students expand their vocabulary and general knowledge beyond the curriculum. This activity takes place before starting lessons. Before the 15-minute reading program was introduced, only 9 students enjoyed reading, but after the literacy program, the number increased to 17 students. This demonstrates an improvement in students' reading interest at MA Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan (Luluk, March 15, 2024).

After the adoption of this program, it has helped shape students' reading habits. The importance of reading and exploring relevant materials cannot be overlooked in efforts to enhance students' reading interests. The monitoring stage becomes crucial, where librarians play an essential role in providing guidance and tracking students' progress, offering constructive feedback to help them develop their reading skills, and generating recommendations for the next steps (Haidar & Sholeh, n.d.).

SIMPULAN

The role of the library at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur Pakong Pamekasan is that it functions not only as a learning resource but also as a literacy center that supports the development of students' skills. Through various literacy programs and efforts to enhance students' reading interests, the library has become a vital place in creating a learning environment that fosters enthusiasm for learning and helps improve students' literacy skills. The roles of teachers and librarians are essential in creating a supportive and motivating environment for students to read more. Thus, the library at Madrasah Aliyah Sumber Bungur Pamekasan plays a crucial role in shaping a skilled and knowledgeable generation.

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