BUILDING COMMUNITY LITERATURE INTEREST THROUGH THE PERPUJSJAL PROGRAM IN JATIROKEH VILLAGE, SONGGOM DISTRICT, BREBES REGENCY

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Abstract: Literacy is a vital talent in life because it includes individual talents and competencies in reading, writing, speaking, calculating, and solving problems. Literacy is closely related to language skills. Roughly, literacy can also be interpreted as reading and writing, which is also the basis for achieving a higher level of literacy skills and abilities that are useful in everyday life. The case of the COVID pandemic, which stopped the activities of the entire community, was no exception to the teaching and learning process in schools, which resulted in an online system and activities at home. Judging from the observations of the current situation and conditions, there are many children and teenagers in the Jatirokeh area who online learning is considered less than optimal for educating character. This study aims to provide awareness and build interest in reading for residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in Jatirokeh Village, Songgom District, and Brebes Regency. This service method uses several methods, including: 1) Opening communication with parties that allow for book donations 2) Collecting books from donations from various parties 3) Holding a Street Library (PERPUJSJAL) 4) Holding “Ngabubread” activities during the month of Ramadan. The subject of this research is local residents and youth in Jatirokeh Village, Songgom District, Brebes Regency. Data collection was obtained using library techniques, followed by data processing techniques using data analysis. And for the interpretation of data, interpret in the form of a description so as to get good data. Efforts are being made to build and increase awareness of people’s interest in reading by providing reading facilities, visiting people’s places, and organizing interesting activity programs.

Introduction

Reading is an activity that aims to provide information, knowledge, or insight that can help develop creative thinking and the generation of new ideas. Even though society recognizes that reading skills must be learned from a young age because we cannot gain knowledge without reading, reading skills in Indonesia are still low.  

The brain will perform the act of receiving while reading, but submitting will not allow you to gain good and complete knowledge. To get it, one needs to work hard to turn reading texts into useful information. Reading involves not only understanding but also the critical and creative processing of content. Reading makes someone unintentionally collect word for word, linking the intent and direction of his reading, thus allowing the reader to draw conclusions based on his reasoning. The fresher the information obtained and processed by the brain into knowledge, the more proficient it is at processing information obtained through the senses. The success of the younger generation is strongly influenced by literacy skills. Adolescents with good reading skills will be able to absorb material both orally and in writing. Mastery of literacy in the younger generation is very important for supporting the competencies they have in life. If young people can master literacy, or if it can be felt that young people are literate and can sort out information

that can help them succeed in life, competencies can complement each other.2

The younger generation is one of the components that must be involved in development. This is because the younger generation is a potential human resource that can contribute to the success of development. The young generation in question has the potential to become a generation with new, inventive, and creative knowledge that can be utilized to help advance the country. According to Safrin, the role of the younger generation is very important because youth are the pillars of change. Because of the great fighting spirit, new ideas, and new expressions, youth is a significant aspect. Youth, as the successors of the nation, must be able to fulfill their responsibilities in various sectors.3 Meanwhile, rapid technological advances pose a significant problem because they have the potential to change people's attitudes towards reading books. The problem is that the younger generation is starting to lose their identity in the face of cultural instability. They are geared towards Euro-American culture as well as lacking a normal grip. Fashion clothing, pop art, culinary trends, and westernized lifestyles are proof. This is very concerning because if the next generation of young people has a low interest in reading, it will be difficult to compete with other nations that have higher-quality human resources with the ability to read to increase knowledge.4

Actually, there is still a lack of interest in reading among the general public, especially among students. According to the results of a 2016 poll conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Indonesians' interest in reading is very low, perhaps the lowest in Asia. Based on these data, it can be seen that the reading interest of the Indonesian people is relatively low when compared to people in other countries. In terms of reading interest, Indonesia ranks 60th out of 61 countries. Indonesia's reading ability, based on numbers and other data, is still far below that of other countries, such as ASEAN countries. When compared to European or American society, young people can read up to 25–27% of books in a year. Interest in reading in Japan can range from 15 to 18% of books every year. While the annual growth rate of Indonesians is almost 0.01%.5 Enthusiasm for reading began to wane at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as among the general public. Oheo 1 Public High School, one of the schools in Oheo District, also has a poor interest in reading in the library. According to information obtained from conversations with guidance and counseling officers at SMA Negeri 1, many children show low interest in reading, according to Oheo. Students who are less committed to reading visit the library less frequently to read or borrow books, indicating a lack of interest in the subject. As many as 226 students in all study programs use the library every day, with an average of less than 15 students every day.6

Low reading ability indicates that educational activities have not been successful in generating students' interest in reading in the subjects they study. The government must act quickly to overcome the lack of interest in reading among Indonesian students so as not to further degrade the culture of reading in the country. Reading is a window to the world because it allows children to gain a greater understanding of the world. If Indonesian students are less


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enthusiastic about reading, it can be assumed that they have inadequate knowledge. Low interest in reading is an obstacle for students to develop reading skills, which have significant benefits for them. In addition, less interest in reading will have a negative impact on the quality of education. Indonesia's education system is still lagging behind neighboring countries. Based on the findings of a survey conducted by Political and Economic Risk Consultants (PERC), the quality of education in Indonesia is still far below that of 12 other Asian countries. The low level of education has an impact on the capacity of resources to manage the future. Therefore, students' interest in reading must be nurtured, directed, and developed from an early age so that they develop into students who have high reading abilities.⁷

According to Tarigan, interest in reading is a person's ability to interact with himself to capture the meaning contained in writing in order to produce emotional experiences as a result of paying attention to the meaning of reading. Meanwhile, interest in reading, according to Farida Rahim and Herman Wahdaniah, is a strong desire accompanied by an effort to read. People who have a great desire to read will indicate their readiness to obtain reading material and then read it on their own initiative or with outside assistance. Reading interest, according to reading experts, is a strong and deep interest in reading activities accompanied by happy emotions, which can motivate a person to read alone or with outside assistance. One's interest in reading can also be interpreted as one's pleasure in reading because he believes that reading will be beneficial to him.⁸

Readers' interest in reading should be their own. According to Hasyim, someone who is considered to have a strong interest in reading can be identified by the following indicators: a) read after reading; b) take time to read; and c) recognize the benefits of reading. Someone who likes to read will be involved in various reading activities and will try to read various books. They read both the literature they needed at this time and the literature they considered vital. One's interest in reading does not grow by itself; the help of others is needed in the form of encouragement or other efforts to encourage children to read, and this cannot be separated from the importance of reading. Fostering one's interest in reading is better done at the earliest possible time; it will have an impact on increasing interest in reading in children or adolescents. In this case, interest in reading will increase if they are often confronted with reading that suits their needs.⁹

Especially when the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, which has now become a pandemic, has had quite a severe impact on various sectors, including education, where students are expected to study from home online in accordance with the circular of the Minister of Education and Culture number 4 this year. 2020 on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. As a result, school-age children and youth will lose their main daily activities, namely school work. Learning that should be done at school is now being done at home. Much more free time for The Ministry of Education and Culture hopes that people will study at home. However, they get bored and spend a lot of time playing when they study too much at home. Of course, this is a major source of anxiety for parents because their children will not be supervised to study during the epidemic. However, what worries parents even more is if their child still cannot read.¹⁰

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The negative impact of COVID-19 on the decline in reading interest must be addressed immediately; this must be attempted and carried out by all parties. Several stakeholders, including the government, libraries, librarians, and the community, must be involved in encouraging interest in reading in society, especially among young people. However, to increase reading interest, the library is the most dominant center point in this situation. This is because, in general, our culture doesn't place much priority on shopping for books at home, so when a child's reading interest kicks in, the library is the place to go. Many households do not have a simple library to obtain books that provide knowledge for their family members. In fact, this can help spark a child's interest in reading and can be done at any age. Consequently, it is significant.

Based on the description above, it can be said that the reading interest of Jatikoreh Village residents, especially children, has decreased, especially during the COVID-19 period. This is because teaching and learning activities in schools are closed so that reading facilities cannot be accessed, and in fact, borrowing and reading books are usually carried out in schools. Even though the ability to read is very important for them, the author seeks to provide reading facilities to improve the reading ability of residents in Jatikoreh village, which is the location for the writer's Community Service Project amid obstacles during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Method**

this service is intended for the people of Jatikoreh Village, Sangam District, Brebes Regency. Researchers employed training, observation, discussion, and interview techniques in this service. The community will receive more accurate information about literacy issues and reading preferences thanks to this strategy. The service learning method is the one that is employed more specifically. In order to be able to reflect on what has been accomplished in the community itself, service-learning mixes academic activities into community empowerment. Beginning with the preparation stage, which includes performing observations and interviews, community service utilizing the service learning approach technique is the next step. The community will be provided action at the service stage, and the reflection stage, which comes thereafter, seeks to determine how much has changed as a result of the activity. Generally speaking, the service learning phases.

**Result and Discussion**

The method in this service uses several methods, including:

1. Open communication with parties who are able to donate books.

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2. Organized a Street Library (PERPUSJAL).

3. Holding "Ngabubread" activities during the month of Ramadan.
Personal and institutional factors contributed to the widespread interest in reading in Indonesia. Individual factors come from human nature, while institutional factors come from a lack of reading sources. Street libraries emerged for institutional reasons, accommodating people's desire to read by offering reading materials close to the community, such as in city parks or squares. According to his explanation, street libraries have developed into a separate phenomenon in the field of Indonesian literacy.17

One of the answers to the problems of the general public in accessing reading materials is the use of street libraries. Street libraries provide reading material to large crowds and are run voluntarily by a group of individuals or communities with no financial gain in mind. Many people today do not value reading, but street librarians have developed a way to combat the public's lack of interest in reading by providing a variety of reading resources.18 Therefore, the Jalan Brebes Library was founded by a student who was worried about the lack of interest in reading in the Brebes environment. When compared with the learning system that was in effect during the outbreak, PJJ was seen as less than ideal in terms of student learning.

PERPUSJAL Brebes tries to fill this gap by providing learning facilities in the form of a reading garden in the heart of the community. By using donated books and then setting up mobile libraries to encourage young people and the general public to read. By offering a wide range of reading materials, including prophetic stories, history books, and fairy tales, as well as children's stories, novels, comics, and recipes. The aim of street libraries, like TBMs or public libraries, is to stimulate people's interest in reading. The presence of street libraries can help overcome the problem of low interest in reading in Indonesia. It is known that the level of interest in reading about Indonesian society is low.

Various parties, ranging from children's parents to the local government, expressed their gratitude for the efforts of the Brebes Public Library in providing bca-style facilities. The reason is that by following health rules, the Brebes Library provides fun activities during the epidemic. The Brebes Library contributes to the public's interest in reading by creating a mobile library. PERPUSJAL activists create alternative locations for the community to carry out various activities, from just gathering and sharing knowledge with others to holding training or seminars for street library friends and the general public.

Then, as a refresher for the mind, they imply that, according to them, being a street library activist is something that can refresh the mind from the current routine through stall activities, meeting people, and chatting with friends. The final definition is neophyte, which suggests that by becoming a street librarian, you may have access to resources such as information and experience, making it easier to meet friends and develop networks that were previously difficult. PERPUSJAL Brebes, like other city street libraries, has a mission that must be completed. In line with the function of the library, which is informative, recreational, educative, and cultural in society. Perjal Semarang also aims to build a library that serves this purpose, one of which can be done by going directly into the community and having a direct influence on it.

Activities involving the community are also supported by activities carried out by private libraries. This activity is also a way to introduce the public to the possibility of private libraries. This program is primarily for those who live near the library and engage with it regularly. One of the activities carried out is organizing free book stalls where people can read and borrow books for free without requiring membership, as well as holding discussion and

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information sharing events where discussions can take place spontaneously or planned and can be joined by anyone regardless of background. When the booth (library) was built on the side of the road, it developed into a gathering place for young people who wanted to share books or information.

PERPU$JAL is present in the community through the application of a new concept, namely a relaxed and popular library. Many people are attracted to it because of its convenient location on the side of the road and easy access. Perjal has a library of over 150 volumes, in addition to its advantageous location. Jatirokeh residents were enthusiastic enough to read or just ask questions during the writer's KKN period, and several times he built a stand. People stopped by to read books and talked about them all over the place. In other words, since the arrival of the mobile library, the number of young people in this hamlet who want to read has increased. Then, libraries that have been evacuated and put to good use can indirectly help reduce and avoid juvenile delinquency such as brawls, drug abuse, and disciplinary action.

Conclusion

The problem of low interest in reading in Indonesia is caused by two main factors, namely personal and institutional. Personal factors are caused by human nature, while institutional factors are caused by a lack of reading sources. Especially now, with the COVID-19 outbreak, which has wreaked havoc in all aspects of society, including schools, Even the school's PJJ cannot be utilized, so it makes students stressed with their assignments and choose to play with their cell phones. The desire to study and read is decreasing. PERPU$JAL Brebes' efforts to overcome these problems include providing facilities through the Mobile Library (nglapak) program, including holding free book kiosks where people can read and borrow books for free without requiring membership, as well as holding discussion events, and share information about where these discussions could take place. In order to increase people's interest in reading during the epidemic and help increase people's interest in reading in Jatirokeh Village, Kee. Songgom in general can be performed spontaneously or planned and followed by everyone regardless of background.

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