Community Reading Habit Levels:  
A Case Study at Kediri City, East Java, Indonesia

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Abstract—Since it was launched in 2015 by the government of the Republic of Indonesia, the national literacy movement program has been able to encourage literacy practices both in schools and in the community. However, the description of the condition of community literacy cannot be known with certainty. So far, the level of literacy of Indonesian society is generally described through surveys conducted by international institutions. On the other hand, the results of the two studies need to be tested again in Indonesia. Researchers chose Kediri City, East Java Province, Indonesia that has increased with the trade, industry and also services city. It was encouraged the Local Government of Kediri City declared to be the service city. This study seeks to respond to the need for a reading habit levels that can describe a map of the condition of community literacy holistically in Kediri by examining two things, namely examining variables and indicators that represent reading habit and determining how to compile an appropriate index to measure the level of reading habit. This research has resulted in the Reading Interest Index of Kediri City in the high category, which is at 73.7. Where the details of Kediri City this year get a value of the proficiency variable of 90.2 which is in the very high category; access variable of 58.8 is included in the medium category; alternative variable of 86.7 falls into the very high category; and cultural variables of 59.1 which fall into the medium category. From the four variables that contribute to this index, there are two variables that are quite prominent, namely the proficiency variables which shows that efforts to distribute education are very good. Another variable that is very positive is also seen in the alternative variable, where the people of Kediri City in general start to use information technology tools, although access to computers and the internet must continue to be encouraged to increase equity, benefits, and skill in using it. On the other hand, the inclusion of the average index score in the access variable and cultural variable in the medium category shows the need for the attention of the Kediri City Government to these two variables to be improved.

Keywords—public library, library services, library patron, user attitude, revisiting interest

I. INTRODUCTION

Various surveys have shown unsatisfactory results regarding the level of habit in reading for Indonesia. A survey conducted by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2018 for example, positioned Indonesia in 64th place out of 72 countries. During the period 2015 - 2018, the PISA score for reading only increased 1 point from 396 to 397, while for science it increased from 382 to 403, and the math score increased from 375 to 386. These results indicate that the ability to understand and the skills to use materials reading, especially text documents, among Indonesian children aged 9-14 years is in the bottom ten ranks.

The results of the Indonesia National Assessment Program (INAP), which measures reading, math, and science abilities for elementary school children also show similar results. Nationally, for the category of less in math ability as much as 77.13 percent, 46.83 percent less in reading, and 73.61 percent less in science [1]. Meanwhile, the Central Connecticut State University survey placed Indonesia in the 60th position of the 61 countries surveyed, only one level above Botswana. This study ranks the literacy levels of the surveyed countries using several variables, such as the number of libraries, newspaper circulation, education system, and availability of computers.

Since it was launched in 2015 by the government of the Republic of Indonesia, the national literacy movement program has been able to encourage literacy practices both in schools and in the community [2]. However, the description of the condition of community literacy cannot be known with certainty. So far, the level of literacy of Indonesian society is generally described through surveys conducted by international institutions, such as the release of PISA results and surveys conducted by Central Connecticut State University under the heading The Most Literate Nations.

On the other hand, the results of the two studies need to be tested again in Indonesia. Researchers chose Kediri City, East Java Province, Indonesia that has increased with the trade, industry and also services. It was encouraged the Local Government of Kediri City declared to be the service city. This study seeks to respond to the need for a reading habit levels that can describe a map of the condition of community literacy holistically in Kediri by examining two things, namely examining variables and indicators that represent reading habit and determining how to compile an appropriate index to measure the level of reading habit in Kediri City, East Java Province. Given the broad meaning of 'literacy' that develops in
society, this study only limits reading level. Thus, the indicators compiled to measure the level of reading level are expected to represent the real reality, especially during the current Covid 19 pandemic.

One of the phenomena that can be seen in Indonesia, namely the role of the Kediri City Government in encouraging citizen literacy activities can be seen through the existence of policies that encourage people to have a reading culture. At the national level, the existence of Law Number 43 of 2007 concerning Libraries [3] which is elaborated through Government Regulation Number 24 of 2014 concerning the Implementation of the Library Law is quite clear about the role of the government and local government in realizing people who like to read [4].

In Article 8 of Law Number 43 of 2007 regarding libraries, for example, states the obligations of the provincial and district / city governments, including in organizing library services, ensuring the availability of library services evenly, promoting the promotion of fond of reading, and organizing public libraries with regional uniqueness [3]. The purpose of this research is to produce a Reading Habit Levels by examining several things in Kediri City, East Java Province. First, assessing what variables and indicators can describe people's reading habit. Second, reviewing and determining how to compile an appropriate index to measure the level of reading habit.

By solving the two problems above, a Reading Habit Levels will be obtained which can provide several benefits, including for policy makers in Kediri City, East Java Province, the Community Reading Habit Levels can serve as a guide for evaluating and planning literacy programs that are more precise and planned, considering that so far planning and literacy programs do not rely on empirical data (evidence based) in Kediri City.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The term literacy has developed so broadly not only with regard to text or reading and writing activities. Two meanings of the term literacy, namely the ability to read and write: and Competence or knowledge in a specified area. The term literacy began to be widely used around the 19th century, in line with the widespread impact of the printing press (Gutenberg Revolution) which spread to colonial countries [5]. Initially, the term literacy refers to the practice of writing and reading which is used to differentiate between those who are literate and those who are still illiterate.

Nowadays, the term literacy has developed and is matched with the terms 'knowledge' and 'skills' in various fields of life. The government itself states that there are six basic literacies that every citizen needs to have, namely literacy in numeracy, scientific literacy, information and communication technology literacy, financial literacy, cultural literacy, and citizenship literacy [2]. Given the broad spectrum of literacy as mentioned above, the term literacy in the Reading Habit Levels includes only reading. The term literacy in the Reading Habit Levels is limited to reading the text as defined as 'literacy events', namely events or activities of the subject in using text or reading material [5,6].

The reading culture is one of the important issues in understanding the low level of literacy of the Indonesian people in general and in Kota Kediri in particular. People who have a high reading culture are believed to have a high level of literacy as well. However, to encourage people to have a high reading culture, several prerequisites are needed. Miller and McKenna regarding four factors that can influence literacy activities [7]. The four factors, among others:

- Proficiency is a prerequisite so that a person can access literacy sources. Illiteracy free, for example, is one of the skills requirements that must be possessed to be able to read written texts.
- Access is a supporting resource where people can take advantage of literacy sources, such as libraries, bookstores, and mass media.
- Alternatives are a wide selection of information and entertainment technology devices. "Alternative" here can be interpreted as another option provided by electronic and digital devices in accessing literature sources.
- Culture includes ideas, values, norms, and meanings that are formed by the family, community, and the wider environment that also influence literacy behaviour. In this case "culture" is defined as an effort to form literacy habits or habitus.

Sutarno [8] states that efforts to increase people's habit in reading must be based on the existence of "reading ability". The ability or proficiency to read is a prerequisite for access to reading material. After you have reading skills, the next step is to develop a reading habit. Efforts to develop the habit of reading cannot be accomplished without the availability of reading materials and other supporting facilities [9]. Through this explanation, it becomes clear that the reading culture does not grow by itself, but requires several components, including: (1) reading ability, (2) availability of reading material, and (3) fostering reading habits. Without one of the three things, the effort to build a reading culture will be difficult to materialize.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study uses a quantitative approach and descriptive method. The survey technique in the form of a questionnaire was conducted to obtain primary data. The questionnaire uses 5 Likert Scale so that the data obtained is more accurate. The data collection used is literature study and survey. The literature study was carried out to develop the concept of the Reading Habit Levels in Kediri City, besides this it was done to gain theoretical support as well as previous research or empirical studies. This study also uses a survey using descriptive statistical analysis and by using a questionnaire with a Likert scale analysis. Quantitative data obtained from
surveys from respondents will be normalized by setting minimum and maximum number limits for each indicator and assigning weights to each variable and indicator.

Determining the minimum and maximum limits will be done by determining the standard or ideal size through the available literature sources, or through expert judgment. Meanwhile the weight of variables and indicators is divided equally according to the number of variables and indicators with the consideration that each indicator has a relatively equal role in encouraging reading habit in Kediri City. This study determines the number of samples using the formula \[ n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot \sigma^2}{E^2} \] so that the number of samples is 942 people. The sampling method in this study was conducted with a simple random sampling approach. Determination of the number of samples is using the formula \[ n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot \sigma^2}{E^2} \] which states that for samples with heterogeneous criteria can be determined by the number of variables multiplied by 4. The variables of this study consist of 4 variables, namely proficiency, access, alternatives, and cultures as shown in Table I below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Variables (X1)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Proficiency</td>
<td>can read letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 years compulsory education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Access (X2)</td>
<td>School library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School library staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Direct access to the city's public library (offline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Access the city's public library online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Village library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase of printed newspapers / magazines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase of electronic newspapers / magazines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase of printed books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase of electronic books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alternatives (X3)</td>
<td>Percentage of households / families with internet network availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of individuals using the internet to read on blogs, websites or social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of individuals who use laptops / PCs / tablets and / or smartphones to read electronic reading materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cultures (X4)</td>
<td>Percentage of population in the past week who read electronic newspapers and or magazines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of population in the past week who read electronic books other than holy books</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of population in the past week who read electronic books other than holy books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of population in the last three months who accessed Kediri City Public Library services directly (offline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of population in the last three months who accessed Kediri City Public Library services directly (offline) or online.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of individuals utilizing access to village library services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then the respondents in this survey were residents of Kediri City who were 12 years old or over and were not illiterate or literate. The criteria for respondents in this survey were Kediri City residents who were indeed recorded on the Kediri City Family Card who were 12 years old or over and were not illiterate or literate.

Frequency distribution is used to provide a brief and practical description of a group of data presented in a table or frequency list so that readers can more easily understand the data used in this study. All of the data that has been collected, the data is classified based on the type of answer obtained. For example, answers strongly agree, collected with respondents who also answered strongly agree. After all the data is collected, each answer is added up.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Community Reading Habit Levels is expected to provide an overview of the extent to which the level of community literacy activities in Kediri City is compared to other regions in Indonesia, so that it can be seen the aspects that the City Government of Kediri should encourage so that community literacy activities can increase. For academics and observers of literacy issues, the Community Reading Habit Levels can be a starting point for further study of the dynamics and development of community literacy in Kediri City, East Java Province in particular and Indonesia in general. For literacy activists and activists, this index can be a trigger to encourage and guard efforts to increase literacy activities in Kediri City, East Java Province. Here we can see in Figure 1 below is data on the characteristics of respondents based on gender:

Based on the results of distributing questionnaires to 942 respondents, it was found that 617 respondents (65.5%) were female, and 325 respondents (34.5%) were male. We can also see in Figure 2 below the frequency distribution of respondents by age:
Based on the results of the recapitulation in Figure 2 above, it is known that from 942 respondents, 224 people aged 12 to 15 years (23.8%), 16 to 19 years old were 96 people (10.2%), 20 to 30 years were 313 people (33.2%), 129 people aged 31 to 40 years (13.7%), 129 people 41 to 50 years old (13.7%), and 51 respondents over 50 years old (5.4%). The age of respondents aged 20 to 30 years was the largest, namely 313 people (33.2%).

Based on the results of a questionnaire to 942 respondents, it was found that the majority of respondents' occupations in this study were students as many as 460 people (48.8%). In Figure 3 below, 4 other respondents' occupations are also shown, namely the State Civil Apparatus totalling 92 people (9.8%), 89 entrepreneurs (9.4%), 216 private employees (22.9%), and Managing Households as many as 85 people (9.0%).

The results also showed that the majority of the respondents' last education was tertiary institutions, namely as many as 414 people (43.9%). In Figure 4, it can be seen that the last 4 educational backgrounds of other respondents, namely elementary school as many as 104 people (11.0%), junior high school as many as 133 people (14.1%), high school as many as 288 people (30.6%), and only 3 people did not go to school (0.3%).

Based on the results of distributing questionnaires to 942 respondents, it is known that 342 respondents (36.3%) came from Kota District, as many as 294 respondents (31.2%) came from Mojoroto District, and as many as 306 respondents (32.5%) comes from the Pesantren District, can be seen in Figure 5 below.

Then in Figure 6 below shows that of the 942 respondents in this study, it was found that 477 people (50.6%) of respondents had an income / allowance of less than IDR 500,000, 281 people (29.8%) of respondents had income / money pocket of more than IDR 500,000 to IDR 2,500,000, 105 people (11.1%) of respondents had an income / allowance of more than IDR 2,500,000 to IDR 4,500,000, 55 people (5.8%) of respondents had income / money pocket of more than IDR 4,500,000 to IDR 6,500,000, and 24 people (2.5%) of respondents had an income / allowance of more than IDR 6,500,000.
The figure 8 below shows the respondents' average reading time per week. It is known that out of 942 respondents in this study, 182 people (19.3%) read less than 30 minutes per week, 299 people (31.7%) read more than 30 minutes to 1 hour per week, 202 people (21.4%) read more than 1 hour to 2 hours per week, and 259 people (27.5%) read more than 2 hours per week.

Then figure 9 below shows the favourite places to read that are usually used by respondents in this study, in this case the respondent may choose more than one place. From the results of the questionnaire, it can be seen, the school library as many as 498 (52.9%) respondent preferences, the Village Library as many as 363 respondents’ preferences (38.5%), and the Kediri City Public Library as many as 359 (38.1%) respondents' preferences.

The results of the calculation of the Reading Habit Levels in Kediri City, East Java Province, show that the average reading habit levels is in the high category, which is 73.7. This result can be seen in Figure 10, where the value is composed of four variable indexes, namely the variables of Proficiency Index of 90.2 which is in the very high category; the access variables Index of 58.8 falls into the medium category; the alternative variables Index of 86.7 is in the very high category; and a cultural variables Index of 59.1 which falls into the medium category.

From the four variables in the index, there are two variables that are quite prominent, namely the skill variable which shows that efforts to equalize education are very good. Another variable that is very positive is also seen in the Alternative variable, where the people of Kediri City in general start to use information technology tools, although access to computers and the internet must continue to be encouraged to increase equity, benefits, and skills in using it. On the other hand, the inclusion of the average index score on the Access variable and the Cultural variable in the medium category indicates the need for local government attention to these two variables to be improved.

The formula for calculating the Reading Habit Levels in Kediri City uses the average obtained from descriptive quantitative data. The use of the average is useful for seeing the performance of each variable that contributes to the final result of an index. In Figure 11 below, it can be seen that the distribution on the four variables simultaneously shows the contribution of each variable to the Reading Habit Levels of Kediri City, where the variables of proficiency Index provides the highest contribution, followed by the Alternative variables index, the cultural variables index, and the access variables index, accounts for the lowest role. These results provide an overview of the achievements in the four variables as well as the shortcomings that need to be supported by the improvement.

A. Proficiency

The highest contribution to the Skills Variable is obtained from two indicators, namely being able to read and write Latin letters fluently and the average number of respondents aged twelve (12) years and over who are currently or have taken the 9-year compulsory education level. Based on Table 4.10 and Figure 12 below, it can be seen that the indicator (X1) obtained an indicator percentage index of 90.5 which is in the very high category. So, it can be concluded, almost all respondents agreed to be able to read and write Latin letters fluently. The indicator (X2) gets an indicator percentage of 89.9 which is in the very high category. So, it can be concluded, almost all respondents agree that they are or have completed 9 years of compulsory education.
From the percentage index of the two indicators above, the percentage index for the proficiency variables is 90.2 which is included in the very high category. These results indicate that the efforts of the Kediri City Government in improving community literacy skills through expanding access to literacy sources through the support of 9-year compulsory education are very good.

**B. Access**

The access variable is composed of the indicators of access in schools and the indicators of access in the community. Based on Figure 13 below, it can be seen that the indicator (X3) obtained an indicator percentage index of 77.3 which is in the high category. So, it can be concluded, almost all respondents agreed with an adequate collection of reading materials in the school library near where they live. In the indicator (X4), the percentage index for the indicator is 81.4 which is included in the very high category. So, it can be concluded, the average school or school in the vicinity of the respondent's residence has library management officers. The indicator (X5) obtained the percentage index of the indicator of 57.8 which is in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, only a portion of the respondents who accessed reading materials of the Public Library of Kediri City either directly or offline. This is presumably due to the influence of the current Covid-19 Pandemic conditions, it is necessary to have a special strategy in this regard.

The indicator (X6) obtained the indicator percentage index of 53.9 which is included in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, only some respondents access reading material from the Public Library of Kediri City online or offline. This would require a special strategy in this regard, especially in the current conditions of the Covid-19 Pandemic, online services are an alternative that can be strengthened. The indicator (X7) obtained the percentage index of the indicator of 51.8 which is included in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, some respondents have not yet accessed the collection of reading materials from the village library available in their neighbourhood. This is presumably due to the influence of the current Covid-19 Pandemic conditions, it is necessary to have a special strategy in this regard.

Indicator (X8) obtained a percentage index of 50.3 which is included in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, most respondents did not buy newspapers or print magazines in the last 1 (one) month. The indicator (X9) obtained the percentage index of the indicator of 47.6 which is in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, most respondents did not buy newspapers or electronic magazines in the last 1 (one) month. Indicator (X10) obtained the percentage index indicator of 60.2 which is included in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, some respondents did not buy printed books in the last 1 (one) month. Indicator (X11) obtained the percentage index indicator of 49.2 which is included in the medium category, so it can be concluded that most of the respondents did not buy electronic books in the last 1 (one) month.

The nine indicators above illustrate the availability of literacy resources both in the domain of schools and in the community of Kediri City, that requires a variety of strategic efforts by the Kediri City Government to ensure that this can be resolved together. Public access through the Public Library of Kediri City and village libraries needs to be improved so that people have more access to literacy materials even during the current Covid-19 Pandemic. The availability of city public libraries and village libraries is regulated by Law Number 43 of 2007 concerning Libraries. At each level, ideally there should be at least one library, where the ratio of users to the number of librarians and library collections is also arranged proportionally.

The village library ratio is also used as an indicator to see the extent to which people have access to reading material around their place of residence. According to the ideal assumption, at least one village library and 1,000 residents should serve at least one village library.

**C. Alternatives**

In the alternative variable, which is the second largest contributor, it is composed of three indicators. If we look at Figure 14 below, it can be seen that Item (X12) obtained an indicator percentage index of 76.7 which is included in the high category. So, it can be concluded, most respondents have a collection of reading material in printed form at their homes or residences.
Item (X13) obtained an indicator percentage index of 93.2 which falls into the very high category. So, it can be concluded, the majority of respondents use the internet to read on social media, blogs, or websites. Indicator (X14) obtained the percentage index of 90.4 which is included in the very high category. So, it can be concluded, the majority of respondents use computers (laptops / PCs / tablets) and / or smartphones to read reading materials in electronic form.

When viewed from the figures above, the potential for the community to independently provide printed reading material and internet networks as well as the use of computer devices that have bridged access to various reading sources is actually quite large so that it needs to be directed to support easy, safe, and reliable access. The Kediri City Government needs to make a strategy related to the description of the options or possibilities provided by electronic or digital devices in an effort for the public to access information. The availability of an adequate internet network in the people of Kediri City is an illustration of alternative access to information that can be enjoyed by individuals and families in addition to printed reading materials available in the places where each community lives.

D. Cultures

The cultural variables are described through the literacy habits of the community. This variable is composed of seven indicators. Based on Figure 15 below, it can be seen that the indicator (X15) obtained an indicator percentage index of 63.2 which is in the high category. So, it can be concluded, most respondents read newspapers and / or printed magazines in the last week. The reading habit of the people of Kediri City towards newspapers and / or printed magazines needs to be considered as a good potential for information intake and as one of the main media in obtaining actual information during the current pandemic.

The indicator (X16) obtained the percentage index of the indicator of 72.5 which is in the high category. So, it can be concluded, most of the respondents read newspapers and / or electronic magazines in the last week. The indicator (X17) obtained the indicator percentage index of 70.9 which is in the high category. So, it can be concluded, most respondents read books in printed form in the last week.

The indicator (X18) obtained an indicator percentage index of 74.4 which is in the high category. So, it can be concluded, most respondents read books in electronic form in the last week. The indicator (X19) obtained the percentage index of the indicator of 43.1 which is in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, only a small proportion of respondents access the city’s public library services directly (offline) in the last three months. This is presumably due to the influence of the current pandemic conditions. It is necessary to have a special strategy in this regard.

The indicator (X20) obtained an indicator percentage index of 45.7 which is included in the medium category. So, it can be concluded, most of the respondents lacked access to online city public library services in the last three months. Indicator (X21) obtained by the percentage index of the indicator of 44.2 which is included in the moderate category. So, it can be concluded that most respondents have not accessed the village library services available in the neighbourhood where they live in the last three months.

In the cultural variables, it appears that the people of Kediri City are still in the moderate category. This can be seen from the variety of literacy sources, both printed and electronic, which are still minimally accessed, as well as the habit of using city public library services and utilizing village libraries, the numbers still need to be improved. The government's efforts to synergize with the community in a sustainable and programmed manner in campaigning and strengthening the activities of the literacy movement and the movement to love reading can be the answer to the challenges of this condition.

V. Conclusion

This research has found that the Reading Habit Levels in Kediri City which shows the extent of the descriptive reading habit in Kediri City. These results are an accumulation of four variables, namely the proficiency, access, alternatives, and culture. From this study it can be concluded that several things, namely the Reading Habit Levels of Kediri City is in the high category, which is at 73.7 score.

From the four variables that contribute to this index, there are two variables that are quite prominent, namely the proficiency variables which shows that efforts to distribute education are very good. Another variable that is very positive is also seen in the alternative variable, where the people of Kediri City in general start to use information technology tools, although access to computers and the internet must continue to be encouraged to increase equity, benefits, and skill in using it. On the other hand, the inclusion of the average index score in the access variable and cultural variable in the medium
category shows the need for the attention of the Kediri City Government to these two variables to be improved.

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