

# Ideal Contributions of Libraries in Supporting the Implementation of Children's Literacy Movement in Elementary Schools

Muh.Arafik<sup>1,\*</sup>, Arda Purnama Putra<sup>1</sup>, I Gede Astawan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Primary Education, Universitas Negeri Malang, Malang 65145, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup> Department of Primary Education, Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, Bali 81116, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author. Email: [muh.arafik.fip@um.ac.id](mailto:muh.arafik.fip@um.ac.id)

## ABSTRACT

The library functions as a learning center in elementary schools. The development and arrangement of libraries is an important part of the implementation of the Children's Literacy Movement in elementary schools and the management of knowledge based on reading. This study aims to describe, explain, and interpret the contribution of libraries in supporting the implementation of the Children's Literacy Movement in Saleh Children's Elementary School, Malang City. This research was conducted using a case study qualitative approach. Data collection techniques were carried out through direct observation, in-depth interviews with school principals, teachers, students, librarians, school committees, and documentation studies to support the data from observations and interviews. After checking the validity, the data were analyzed by condensing the data, presenting the data and drawing conclusions. The findings of the research on the contribution of libraries in supporting the implementation of the Children's Literacy Movement at the Saleh Children's Elementary School in Malang include: (1) mandatory library visits, (2) reading awards (3) reading corners and literary magazines (4) celebration of children's literacy.

**Keywords:** *children's literacy movement, libraries, elementary schools.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the Children's Literacy Movement (CLM) in elementary schools cannot be separated from the role and contribution of the library. Libraries are the "heart" of learning. The library is a vital part and has a big influence on the quality of education. Improving the quality and quality of national education is one of the priorities that receive serious attention from the Indonesian government. This seriousness was manifested by the ratification and enactment of the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003 which became a strong foundation for the implementation of national education.

Quality academic achievement is based on the development of good reading skills. Generally, reading is important for students to cope up with the evolving world

of knowledge. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have vastly influenced the reading practices of students. The younger generation of the information age spends most of their time in front of screens. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Internet have affected so many areas of human life, and reading habit is one of them. The prominent role of ICTs and especially the use of e-resources has dramatically changed the fabric of reading habits of the new generation and it has also influenced the way students use library resources [1].

With the increase in the acceptance of digital devices, reading is progressively screen-based rather than paperbound [2]. Libraries are also incorporating these changes by becoming hybrid to fulfill the need for access to full-text digital information resources [3]. Technological inventions influenced the student's

reading from print books to e-book and e-readers because of advantages offered over traditional books like portability, online 24/7 accessibility, and cost benefits [4]. Moreover, the dream of the portable digital library came near to reality by Amazon's Kindle which increased the facility of quick downloads and storage capacity \_up to 200 books\_ for both academic and public libraries. With the availability of these facilities, different libraries are now introducing the circulation of e-books and restrictive downloading options for their patrons [5]. Responding to the new reading formats and rapid changes in technology, it is important to develop library services accordingly.

Good library management and service provision library will be very useful and a satisfaction for the students student. The librarian is in charge of managing and providing services information, and conduct promotions with the aim of increasing interest in reading to students. Supporting facilities can be an attraction for students to visit the school library. Libraries can provide access free internet, comfortable study rooms, and entertainment facilities of course educative. The convenience obtained by students can be used by the librarian in conveying the importance of reading interest, so that form a good literacy culture among students.

One of the causes of students' lack of interest in reading is the availability of books that are not adequate and evenly distributed. The Indonesian Publishers Association [6] adds that in the last four years starting from 2012 to 2015 there has been a significant increase in the number of publishers. The increase in the number of book publishers is not followed by an even distribution of the number of publishers. There is a very real inequality between regions, especially on the island of Java and outside the island of Java. Jakarta occupies the first position with 504 publishers, followed by West Java with 278 publishers, East Java with 159 publishers in Central Java with 145 publishers, and 91 publishers in Yogyakarta. A total of 21 regions outside Java only have 139 book publications. Still far behind with the number of publishers in one area, such as West Java, especially Jakarta.

Improving the literacy outcomes of young people is a key focus of contemporary education [7]. Uncovering how librarians in schools can support struggling readers to improve their literacy, in relation to their reading skills and attitudes, is the purpose of this paper. Classroom teachers are not the only literacy educators in schools; while librarians in schools often face significant staffing and budgetary cuts, research supports the contention that they can play an important role in supporting learning in literacy and literature.

Currently, the existence of the school library has not been used optimally by the community its users, especially students. In fact, the library is a warehouse information and knowledge that is very important to be

known and utilized by students in an effort to support the learning process. Wrong student achievement the only supporting factor is the library. Therefore, the library has been it's time to be managed professionally so that its existence is used optimally by its users, especially students.

A person is called literate if he has the essential knowledge to be used in every activity that demands an effective literacy function in society. To be truly literate, one must have the ability to use various types of text appropriately and the ability to empower thoughts, feelings, and actions in the context of social activities with a specific purpose. In this case literacy is defined as the skill of obtaining information, understanding it, and making the information a tool and provision for interacting with the community. This can be pursued by optimizing the role and contribution of libraries in supporting the implementation of the children's literary literacy movement in elementary schools.

The contribution and role of libraries to the Implementation of the Children's Literary Literacy Movement in Elementary Schools is interesting to investigate further. The library is an effort to maintain and improve efficiency and effectiveness of the teaching-learning process. Well organized library and systematic, directly or indirectly can directly provide convenience for teaching and learning process at the school where the library is located. This is related with advances in the field of education and with there is an improvement in teaching and learning methods that felt inseparable from the problem provision of educational facilities and facilities. This study aims to find out how the role and contribution of the library with all its programs and activities to support the implementation of the children's literary literacy movement at Saleh Children's Elementary School Malang City.

## **2. METHOD**

This study used qualitative approach. The reason for choosing is because this research focuses on the process of implementing or developing a school policy program, in this case the contribution of libraries in supporting the implementation of CLM. This study also explores in-depth and detailed information about education (stakeholders) in elementary schools related to the research focus [8]. Data collection techniques used interviews, observations, and document studies [9]. Questionnaires and interviews were used to obtain information from resource persons, namely principals, teachers, students, education staff, librarians, and committees. Observations were made to explore and identify how far the library's contribution to the implementation of children's literary literacy in elementary schools. In this context, observations were made on: activities of school stakeholders within the school scope, monitoring and evaluation. Documents,

photos and others can be viewed as “resources” who can be asked to answer questions posed by researchers. The documents in question include: school work plans, school profiles, curriculum, school work programs, school history, school vision and mission, school facilities and infrastructure, school achievements, progress of student learning outcomes, all of which are related. with the implementation of the literary literacy program for elementary school children.

After the data was collected, the data analysis was carried out by the researcher during and after being in the field. At the end of an analysis while in the field, the researcher makes a reflection of thoughts about the focus being studied. While the data analysis after leaving the field was carried out to build and organize and review the results of the analysis, whether the researcher had found complete and optimal data to describe the research focus. Qualitative data analysis is carried out through three activities that occur simultaneously, namely data condensation, data presentation and conclusion drawing or data verification [10].

**3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The mandatory library visit activity can be a variation in increasing interest and reading habits. The librarians of SD Anak Saleh have prepared scenarios for fun activities that motivate students to read and use the library as a learning resource. One way to do this is to carry out mandatory library visits which coincide with the month of fondness for reading.

Obligatory activities to visit the library are intended for all school residents. They are obliged to visit the library alternately during one week. The mandatory visit to the library aims to maintain interest in reading for school residents. The library also organizes surgical events and book donations. Book donations are given to nearby elementary schools in need in the area of a school cluster. Book donations were collected from students, parents, teachers, alumni, and book publisher partners.

The Saleh Children's Elementary School library has 4 officers, one of whom is an expert in IT. By having a background in information science and technology, it has succeeded in making the Salah Children Elementary School library progress and develop. Activities related to the library can always be accessed through social media. Apart from being a more effective and efficient form of information, it has also become the demands of an all-digital era. Anak Saleh Children's Elementary School library has accounts ranging from Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, to its own website. Innovation and creativity in packaging information into a reference and superior library for Saleh Children's Elementary School.

As literacy culture shifts from print to digital, from print to screen as a marker of the digital era, the world of education through knowledge transfer in schools is also

the time for 21st century learning. A learning that familiarizes learners to gain knowledge by means of technology. IT-based productive literacy is absolutely necessary for students. Librarians have a strategic role in developing reading interest to improve literacy skills in students. This is because managing knowledge is the main job of the library.

The school library as a means of supporting students, provides a variety of information according to the needs of its users. According to Darmono [11] “School libraries as one of the educational facilities supporting student learning activities play a very important role in spurring the achievement of educational goals in schools”. Library literacy skills are important for students including: knowledge about the function of libraries as a source of knowledge and collections of useful and entertaining information, the ability to choose library materials according to level and interest independently, knowledge about library materials as a product of writing works created through a creative process, and knowledge about the ethics of borrowing library materials and doing activities in the library [12].

The library is a central unit that contributes to providing support to the CLM program. Libraries serve and have relationships with all units in educational institutions. Therefore, the library has a strategic position to play an active role in fostering a positive attitude towards increasing information literacy. In Figure 1, it can be seen that the enthusiasm of students in participating in book discussions is one of the fun compulsory library visit programs.



**Figure.1** Obligatory activities to visit the library

The development of the social and affective environment in the school literacy climate, one of which encourages schools to give awards for literacy achievements. Anak Saleh Children Elementary School, Malang City is very concerned about the growth of students' interest and love for children's literary books accompanied by reading activities which are measured by indicators of students' attitudes, sincerity and behavior, as well as the literacy achievements they get. This literacy-

based award is divided into two categories. The first category emphasizes more on the process of learning and reading, while the second category focuses more on the size of the skills and the quality of the work produced.

Students who receive awards for their literacy achievements are obliged to become mentors or peer tutors like other students. This is intentionally done in order to pass on experience and best practices to other students, besides that it is also very helpful for the teacher's task to improve competence in the field of children's literacy. Mentoring and peer tutoring provide a positive impact and convenience in transferring experiences and best practices between students.

Appreciating the achievements of the literacy achievements that have been achieved by students also gets support from the school committee. Real evidence of the support provided by the committee is participating in giving donations in the form of prizes for outstanding students. The prizes given are not always in the form of material, but also coaching to students who excel in order to improve their competence.

Beers, et al [14] state that school is a social and affective environment as a literate model of communication and interaction. The social and affective environment is built through a model of communication and interaction of all school components. This can be developed by recognizing the achievements of students throughout the year. Awards can be given during the flag ceremony every week to appreciate the progress of students in all aspects. Achievements are valued not only academically, but also the attitudes and efforts of students. Thus, every student has the opportunity to get school awards.

Awards for the achievements of student achievements are not only given by looking at the final results or the form of skills and quality of student work. Anak Saleh Elementary School Malang City also gave awards on the basis of the learning process and literacy. Several awards given by schools from the learning process that are included in the CLM program category include the reading award. Reading award is an award given to students when students have completed the task of reading children's literature books and have completed a predetermined bill. The purpose of this reading award is to motivate students to increase the number of books they read.

The procurement and arrangement of reading corners greatly supports the existence and function of the library as well. The reading corners in certain classes are more dominated by reading children's literature. The genre of children's literature for the lower class is dominated by illustrated reading books, in addition to comics and fairy tales. Short stories and novels are mostly found in high-class reading corners, followed by poetry anthologies.

Seeing and being in the classes of Anak Saleh Children Elementary School, Malang City is like being in a room decorated with a literacy tree that thrives with a variety of fruits. Both in class I to class VI. Text-rich class. There are reading corners, wall magazines, displays that are pasted and hung. The text-rich space is arranged in such a way that it looks neat and conceptual. The arrangement of displays and reading angles is not just random. This makes students feel comfortable and at home. Student comfort in the classroom supports a positive and conducive atmosphere for learning.

The existence of a reading corner also functions as a learning resource to support learning. The reading collection in the reading corner is always updated. Collaboration between classes coordinated by each homeroom teacher to exchange reading collections. Students who bring reading books from home also get special appreciation from their homeroom teachers.

One of the activities that can be carried out by the program to increase students' reading interest is the use of reading corners. The reading corner at the Saleh Children's Elementary School in Malang is able to introduce students' reading culture, because it provides a new atmosphere in the classroom. The existence of a reading corner for students is one of the prerequisites for forming literate students. The availability of a collection of children's literature readings in the reading corner is able to develop literary awareness and increase literary appreciation in students.

Wall magazines are a means of delivering information at the Saleh Children's Elementary School, Malang City. Wall magazines are used as a vehicle to practice journalistic activities for students. Wall magazines can be chosen as the simplest form of journalistic activity. The manufacture is not too complicated with materials that can also be adjusted to the needs. Including a special wall magazine for children's literature.

Publishing a wall magazine as stated by Mayfield [15] is able to foster participation, openness, cooperation and mutual connectedness in the community. Wall magazine is so elegant to support the development of a culture of student literacy in schools, this is in line with the idea that makes wall magazine a tool for the success of the CLM program [16].

Literacy is more than just reading and writing, but includes thinking skills using knowledge sources in print, visual, digital, and auditory forms. In the 21st century this ability is called information literacy. Clay [17] states that the components of information literacy consist of early literacy, basic literacy, library literacy, media literacy, technological literacy, and visual literacy. In the context of Indonesia, early literacy is needed as a basis for acquiring literacy towards the next literacy stage. Early literacy is the ability to listen, understand spoken

language, and communicate through pictures and verbally shaped by his experience of interacting with his social environment at home. The wall magazine for children's literature is shown in Figure 2 below.



Figure.2 Children's Literature Wall Magazine

The benefits of wall magazines at the Saleh Children's Elementary School are not only as a medium of communication and a source of information, but also as a forum for students' creativity to channel various literacy competencies ranging from reading, writing, drawing, to doing repetition to producing news. Various ideas, thoughts, creativity, and even fantasies that accompany the development of the child's soul need to be channeled to express them. So it is appropriate if the wall magazine is used as a simple but very meaningful outpouring container.

Wall magazines are published once a month by each class, except for the literary special magazine which is published twice a month. A special wall magazine for literature in one school. Publishing takes turns starting from grades one to six. A special wall magazine for literature is coordinated by two teachers. The placement of the literary wall magazine is in a location adjacent to the toga park.

Lifting a wall magazine means organizing a group of students. Wall magazine guides all involved in it to organize. Wall magazine is the embodiment of teamwork or group work that requires mutual compliance with agreements, established rules, self-discipline, and sincerity in work. By preparing a wall magazine means also learning to organize and relate directly to the activities in it. The group in publishing a wall magazine will familiarize the organizers in preparing a mature plan in the organization of the children's group that establishes cooperation between departments. Through such conditions, directly or indirectly, wall magazine places teamwork as the basic capital for any organizational growth. The Children's Literary Literacy Festival at Saleh Elementary School aims to develop talent and foster student competence in the field of literacy, especially children's literature, as well as an award event for the

achievements that children have produced through various works produced. They learn to appreciate children's literary works through competitions held. Familiarize children with literary works.

The Children's Literary Literacy Festival at the Saleh Children's Elementary School provides a vehicle for students to express and be creative as much as possible to appreciate children's literary works. This is done as a form and follow-up of all types of CLM activities at the habituation and learning stage. Literacy celebration is an annual celebration or celebration. Massive party for all school members to enjoy various activities, including: creativity competition and appreciation of children's literary works, literature discussion, literature camp, book donation, a day with writers, and watching movies together.

Appreciation of children's literacy in the context of implementing CLM in addition to aiming to maintain literacy habits also aims to find competent students according to the type of competition. The selection of outstanding students is carried out in preparation for participating in or participating in competitions outside of school. The continuous coaching of gifted students is a manifestation of the commitment of the Saleh Children's Elementary School as an educational institution that has the vision, mission and goals of realizing a superior Islamic elementary school that produces graduates who are faithful, science and technology, achievement, and cultured, and pious to religion, nation, and family. Figure 3 shows the publication of a children's literacy festival.

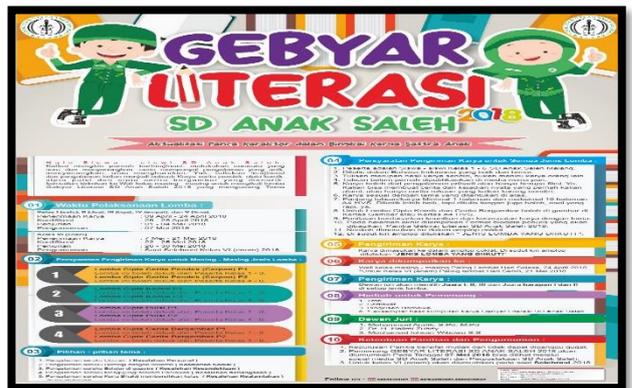


Figure.3 Literacy Festival Publications

The Ministry of Education and Culture [18] states that GLSA is implemented in stages by considering school readiness. This readiness includes the readiness of school capacity, readiness of school residents, and the readiness of other support systems. Based on the data found in the field, the three schools that implemented CLM at the habituation stage through the arrangement of facilities and a literate environment were carried out by optimizing library management. Library management aims to

support reading activities fifteen minutes before learning. The availability of reading sources and various activities organized by the library were able to foster interest in reading for all school residents.

The library should not only be used as a place to read books, but also as a center for more varied and diverse literacy-based activities. For example, book launches and reviews, writers and writers' meetings, film screenings, painting exhibitions, and literacy festivals such as parades for reading poetry anthologies, writing short stories or novels, and drawing [19].

The research findings show that schools do not only carry out habituation by holding literacy activities before learning. Furthermore, the school also strives to provide, organize facilities and infrastructure to support literacy students. Schools have provided literacy facilities and infrastructure in the form of reading corners in classes, libraries and reading areas in the canteen or UKS. The efforts made by this school are in line with the statement according to [20] which states that infrastructure and facilities can support and maximize the educational process. Therefore, if the school organizes the infrastructure and facilities for the literacy implementation process, it will support and maximize the literacy process.

Library facilities and infrastructure as the coordinator of reading corners and wall magazines that have been arranged by the school are useful for habituation of student literacy. Given that the library is a place to store the treasures of human thought with library materials that are managed systematically, so that it can become a source of knowledge for students in the educational environment [21], [22], [23], [24]. In addition, the provision of facilities and infrastructure greatly helps students carry out their literacy tasks. Libraries are centers of learning. This is in accordance with Lipton and Hubble's [25] statement which states that libraries can add options to expand knowledge horizons.

The current era of revolution 4.0, the role of libraries as a central source of information is required to more active in providing information services to its users. As well as being required to innovate and improve according to developments in society. So that implementation of digital-based school library services very necessary, especially in the middle the current pandemic that requires resources digital information so that students can still get the information they need.

If the library wants to implement the service digital library, it is necessary taking into account the characteristics of the need users starting from the user perspective, ideas and more effective methods for improve library-based services digital. User perspective is very important for evaluate the digital library, taking into account aspects in the form of sources accurate information, technology that support, ease of use of

services, data security, fast access to information, complete information search design, and attractive applications content management.

The library aims to providing materials and access to information for users for the sake of education, research and service to the community, as well as utilizing information and communication technology in library management. So digital library implementation is expected to be more effective, so that the achievable. The concept of society in the industrial revolution 4.0 which is dominated by advanced technology tools demands libraries to innovate and improve, it is necessary to apply innovations that libraries can do to attracting the user's attention, i.e. understanding needs of digital users, rearranging strategy from traditional base to digital base, the latest management and service model, culture work, as well as being aware of humanitarian issues and ecology.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The school library is a work unit that being in a school environment that has a very important role important, namely, as a provider of information sources that support the success of the teaching and learning process in a school, as a means of introducing the library at the same time also creates the image of the library in the students, as a means of creating a literate society information, as a learning tool that has economic value because it can overcome the constraints of limited ownership of books from students whose parents have limitations economy.

Therefore, school libraries must be empowered maximally. Important aspects that must be prioritized in empowerment of school libraries are: the availability of collections relevant to the school curriculum, staff availability library that is professional and has an active nature and creative, the availability of adequate facilities, the existence of activities promotion of effective use of libraries, and those that do not less important is the existence of policies that pay attention to school libraries from policy makers in a school environment.

Empowerment of school libraries, of course, must be also supported by related parties in the community, such as parents, education offices, companies through programs CSR, etc. Therefore the school in this case the staff school libraries must be observant and pro-active in seize opportunities to build partnerships with parties outside the school. The findings of the research on the contribution of libraries in supporting the implementation of the Children's Literary Literacy Movement at the Saleh Children's Elementary School in Malang include: (1) mandatory library visits, (2) reading awards (3) reading corners and literary magazines (4) celebration of children's literary literacy.

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