



INCREASING CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN READING THROUGH A READING GARDEN IN THE PLAY AREA OF THE PANGGUNGREJO VILLAGE, PASURUAN CITY

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Abstract

Reading is a window to see the world with all its progress and development. Reading is also able to change one's way of thinking and perspective on something. Panggungrejo sub-district is a coastal area in the city of Pasuruan with the majority of the population only having education up to junior high school. According to the people's view, if someone is able to catch fish in the sea, then he is ready to get married. So to get a higher education is no longer necessary. Through the activities of the real work lecture program, Merdeka Pasuruan University students try to provide a forum for the community for reading activities namely a reading garden. Students take advantage of the semi-permanent building where the children and their mothers wait for their fathers who are fishing. With this literacy improvement activity it is hoped that both children and housewives will be able to increase their interest in reading and broaden their knowledge in their spare time. With the opening of the horizons of thinking, the desire to get a higher education is expected to be the main choice of the community to improve the quality of life.

Keywords: Literacy, Reading Interest, Reading Garden.

INTRODUCTION

Reading is a window to see the world, of course this proverb is not exaggerated to be someone's point of view. By increasing interest in reading, someone will be able to find out about technological developments, the world of education and the progress of other countries. Reading has many benefits, namely getting pleasure, perfecting reading aloud, being able to provide new views on something, being able to draw threads for new information with which one has so far understood and being able to provide answers to a problem (Rahim, Farida, 2007). Reading activities provide great benefits because reading activities are a process of understanding ideas. This activity begins with eye activities for normal people and touch tools for the blind. After this process occurs, reason and intuition will work, namely in the form of a process of understanding and appreciation (Y, Slamet, 2007).

The benefits of reading which are very important as an effort to hone one's reasoning and understanding are not accompanied by a high interest in reading either. This is happening in our country, Indonesia, where the phenomenon is that people's interest in reading has not yet experienced a proud condition. One of the causes of low reading ability and culture is the not yet optimal library facilities and infrastructure as a center for developing reading skills and culture (Tahmidaten, Lilik; Krismanto, Wawan, 2020). Good reading skills will greatly affect student achievement (Amri, Saeful; Rochmah, Eliya, 2021). A person's quality of life can be seen from maximizing the potential within him where this effort can be obtained by diligently reading.

Efforts to increase interest in reading need collaboration with all parties involved in a community environment. The purpose of this activity is to help realize and support efforts to increase interest in reading by looking at various causative factors. The low interest in reading is strongly

influenced by the surrounding environment because it indirectly forms children's habits. The family environment is the closest to the child so that whatever is done by family members can certainly shape a pattern of living together. If family members like to read, have activities to buy books together and exchange experiences from reading activities, a reading culture will naturally form (S, Fatimah; , Agustina; , Zafri; H, Hastuti, 2022). The condition of people who are different in fulfilling reading facilities will certainly be different from people who still don't have good access to reading.

For coastal communities in the Panggungrejo sub-district, Pasuruan City, it is still an area that does not yet have access to reading which is able to increase children's and its residents' interest in reading. Reading facilities such as libraries are still limited and only exist in the local village. The need for a reading garden that is easily accessible to residents and children is a solution for how to bring this reading culture closer between community activities. It is hoped that this community service activity can use their free time to fill it with reading and honing their knowledge.

The steps for community service are as follows: 1) provide an understanding for school children about the importance of reading, 2) renovate the guard post used by mothers and children waiting for their fathers to return from fishing, 3) create a reading garden from the utilization of guard post which is decorated with sea nuances and provides bookshelves, 4) provides good reading books for children as well as mothers while waiting for family members who have not returned. Awareness to improve the quality of life so that the importance of reading can be realized by utilizing the free time available.

Based on these problems, the goal of the Merdeka Pasuruan University community service team is to increase public and children's reading interest through providing access to reading in the form of a reading garden for the coastal community of Panggungrejo village, Pasuruan City.

METHOD AND PROCEDURES

The stages and methods of carrying out this activity are through a series of approaches to the village administration and the community before carrying out activities in the field. The service team hopes that the activities carried out are right on target and provide maximum benefits.

This community service is carried out in 3 stages, namely the preparation stage, the fundraising stage and the implementation stage. The stages are as follows:

1. Preparatory stage

At this stage the service team coordinates and field observations. Intensive communication was carried out by conducting interviews with the school, then with the village administration, youth organizations and the local RT and RW. Through this stage, information can be extracted about students' interest in reading at school, residents' activities, especially children and housewives, the existence and adequacy of community reading access. This information exploration is expected to help the team dedication to provide work programs and contributions that are right on target and useful for the Panggungrejo village community.

2. Aid Raising Stage

As a way of maximizing the program for creating a community reading garden, the community service team is trying to collaborate with the relevant agency, namely the library service. With the active assistance of the library service, it is hoped that this work program can be maintained in the future. The assistance provided by the relevant agencies is in the form of borrowing books which will be displayed at the reading park and new books will be replaced every month. With the help of this book display, there will be more variations of reading books and can be used by all levels of society, both children and parents.

3. Implementation Stage

In the realization of this reading garden program, the community service team chose to create a reading garden in the coastal area where fishing boats dock. Around the fishing boat berth area, there is a waiting post where families and children wait for their parents to look for fish that are not well maintained. By utilizing this waiting post, the service team renovated and repaired it and made it a reading garden for the residents. To increase the comfort of the post, it was decorated with sea-nuanced paint paintings and children's paintings and given bookshelves, containers for storing books and provided with bamboo fences. With this reading garden, it is hoped that children and their parents will take advantage of their free time waiting for their families to go to sea by reading to hone their knowledge and reasoning power.

RESULTS

The existence of science greatly influences how a person improves the quality of his life such as the way of thinking, behaving and solving any existing problems. The development of knowledge in society requires a process, starting from teaching right thinking, understanding a lesson and learning to analyze a phenomenon. Understanding that science is important to improve the quality of life, it is necessary to cultivate reading in society.

Reading activity is a habit that can hone the ability to understand writing. By reading, it is hoped that knowledge can be increased in society, of course, all can be obtained, one of which is by reading. Reading is a whole activity carried out with the aim of getting the information contained in a reading. (Abidin, Yunus, 2012). Another understanding that reading is also a process carried out by someone to get messages from writers through the media, namely written language. (Tarigan, H.G, 1984). According to (Rahim, Farida, 2008) some of the goals of reading include: 1) getting pleasure, 2) perfecting reading with nayring, 3) updating knowledge about certain things by connecting what is currently obtained with what was previously owned, 4) getting information for written and oral reports, 5) to reject predictions, 6) to study the structure of the test, 7) to be able to answer specific questions on certain matters.

In addition to the purpose of reading which everyone really needs to understand, so if someone

has a habit and culture of reading then it will get great benefits for him. If you like reading, someone will avoid stupidity. By reading, you can hone your ability to speak fluently and well. The quality of one's memory and understanding can be obtained from reading habits. Even by reading, a person can learn to be wiser in dealing with problems by looking at the experiences of other people in books, for example reading biographies. Reading can also help someone to use their free time so that it is not wasted because reading can refresh the mind from emptiness and confusion.

In an effort to achieve the benefits of reading for the community, it is necessary to optimize things that can increase interest in reading. Interest in reading is influenced by many things including internal and external factors. Internal factors are influenced by interest and awareness while external factors that influence are family factors, the surrounding environment and friends factors. This environment and family, of course, have the role of parents and also teachers at school who are motivators every day (Marwa, 2020). This is in line with research (Balqis, Aulia Fahma; Ananda, Ema Rizky; Wandini, Rora Rizki; Shofia, Warda, 2021) that one of the internal factors that influences interest in reading is the gender factor, namely girls are more interested in reading than boys. man. Another internal factor is the desire to read from themselves who still think that reading will reduce their playing time so they read only when they are about to take an exam. The next internal factor is that children prefer playing gadgets and watching television and the next is the achievement factor. A child who excels in school will have a higher awareness of the importance of reading.

Based on the things that have been described that it is very important to foster an interest in reading in children by looking at the social environment that is around them. By bringing survey results and situation analysis, the service team helped increase children's interest in reading in the Panggungrejo sub-district. By observing the habits of children in the coastal area of the city of Pasuruan, a solution will be obtained according to the target. The children in the Panggungrejo sub-district have a habit of playing on the beach while waiting for their father to return to sea. Opportunities like this will be captured so that children can read on the sidelines of their playing time.

By utilizing unused fishing posts, the service team renovated it into a reading garden by providing interesting reading books for children as well as textbooks. The service team's hope is that if the reading facilities are easily accessible to the public, especially children, then gradually they will enjoy reading without feeling that they are losing their playing time because a place to read is indeed in their playground. It becomes a common thought that coastal communities, namely the younger generation there, are still not optimal in managing perspectives and thinking to pursue higher education. The people in the Panggungrejo kelurahan still think that after completing secondary education they will help their parents find fish. After they have a livelihood as fishermen, it is enough for the youth there to get married so there are very few youths who go to higher education. By increasing interest in reading from an early age, it is hoped that children and youth in the coastal area of the Panggungrejo sub-district will have a more advanced perspective and way of thinking so that their interest in going to school to a higher level can be pursued.



Figure 1. Before and after Reading Garden Area



Figure 2. Socialization and Reading Interest Survey



Figure 3. Book Assistance and Visits to The Library Service

CONCLUSION

Through community service activities in the Panggungrejo sub-district, Pasuruan city, it is hoped that it can provide assistance and solutions to improve the quality of life for the younger generation. By increasing children's interest in reading by providing supportive environmental conditions to be able to read, it is hoped that there will be a change in perspective and awareness to be able to continue their education to a higher level. By increasing knowledge of the importance of education, the number of early marriages in this coastal area can be reduced because the majority of the education levels currently only go to junior high school.

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