

## **Library Revitalization as An Effort to Improve Students Literacy Ability at SDN 1 Kertaharja**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Skills that must be possessed in the 21st century are literacy skills, namely the ability to receive information in reading and writing. Literacy through the library is one of the efforts to improve the literacy skills of students. The renovation of the library which is located at SDN 1 Kertaharja, Parakan Hamlet, Cimerak District, Pangandaran Regency. The initial condition of the library is to store goods such as sports equipment, school administration and school files, so that the benefits of the library as a place to read or borrow books for students are not optimal even though students' reading interest is high. The purpose of this revitalization activity is to restore the functioning of the library and improve the literacy skills of students, by decorating, rearranging books according to type so that they become an attractive place for students to read, borrow books or do assignments. The results after the activity showed that the enthusiasm of students to visit and start doing reading activities, doing assignments and every day the library was crowded. It is recommended for the school to maintain and improve the use of the library and appoint a better library manager.

**Keywords:** Literacy, Library, Students, Revitalization

### **INTRODUCTION**

Education is a place to develop abilities, knowledge and human potential so that they are able to live in society and be able to socialize well. According to Wiratman et al., 2019 which was quoted by (Arfilia Wijayanti, Dian Pujiati, Moh Aniq Khairul Basyar;, 2022) the level of Elementary School Education itself is a foundation that forms students to have good habits, because the level of Elementary School Education is the basis for the level middle education. Wijayanti (2016) quoted by (Arfilia Wijayanti, Dian Pujiati, Moh Aniq Khairul Basyar;, 2022) explains that literally literacy comes from the word literacy. One of the habits that must be applied is the habit of literacy by getting used to doing literacy.

The progress of a nation's civilization is not only measured by its human and natural resources but also by the quality of its human resources. To improve it can be done by developing literacy skills. Ministry of Education and Culture in Rahayunintyas & Yuliyani, 2020 cited by (Lina Agustina, Arief Arffianto et al;, 2019) states that in the 21st century, people must master basic literacy skills, competencies and character.

The character of liking to read is one of the important characters to support the progress of the Indonesian nation. It can be seen that most developed countries have a culture of fond of reading. The School Literacy Movement (GLS) is a participatory effort, where the movement will be successful if there is good cooperation from various parties such as the community, educational staff and the government.

In an effort to develop literacy it is necessary to develop it in an integrated way, especially through education. This is because education has a function and purpose in advancing the nation's civilization. Similar to the goals of national education, that education aims to develop capabilities and form dignified national character and civilization in order to educate the nation's life (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, 2003).

Based on interviews with school principals and teachers, the library has not returned to function at SDN 1 Kertaharja school due to a lack of library managers, which has resulted in low literacy skills of students according to the 2021 Kertaharja 1 Public Elementary School Education Report Card with a score of 1.48 with achievements below competence minimum. Before Covid-19 appeared, the school principal had created a reading corner program that was placed in every class, but over time the program did not go according to plan. In the end all the books were kept in the library and have never been opened until now. The books in the library are still mixed with books from school administration and the room is still used to store sports equipment, children's toys and other stationery equipment. With such circumstances it is difficult for schools to increase students' interest in literacy.

One way to increase this interest is to revitalize the library by organizing room improvement, decoration and arrangement of books with the aim of restoring the function of the library and increasing students' literacy skills.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The implementation method used is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. namely carrying out library revitalization with the observation stage which begins with data collection through interviews with the Principal of SDN 1 Kertaharja, teachers and students. The activities will be carried out starting from August 13, 2022.

This method is used to collect data and presented in the form of written words. The research was carried out at SDN 1 Kertaharja Parakan Hamlet, Cimerak District, Pangandaran Regency in 2022/2023 involving school principals, teachers and students. Data was collected based on the results of interviews, observations and documentation related to the activities carried out.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of interviews and observations, information was obtained that the library had not resumed operations after teaching and learning activities returned to normal. The condition of the library is

not maintained and is still integrated with school documents and other items. After making observations, it was concluded that there was a lack of attention to the library at SDN 1 Kertaharja. Therefore, action was taken by revitalizing the SDN 1 Kertaharja library. This action is focused on redecorating the library. This plan was consulted with the school as well as Field Supervisors (DPL).

The implementation phase begins with cleaning the library and recording what needs are needed or items that need to be repaired. Then buy needs that have been previously recorded using previously prepared funds including wall paint, wood paint, brush, roll, thinner, sandpaper. After all the materials needed have been collected, revitalization is then carried out to manage the library, including: 1) cleaning the library, 2) redecorating the library, 3) sorting school administration, 4) grouping books, 5) separating unused items and 6 ) grouping books by type.

After revitalizing the library, which had not previously been used by the school and after being revitalized it became neat with neatly arranged books, decorations equipped with paintings with educative themes are expected to improve students' literacy skills so that they can obtain more information. This is in accordance with (Ibrahim, Bafadal., 2005) which explains that the library is a work unit of a certain agency or institution that manages library materials, both in the form of books and non-book material which is regulated systematically according to certain rules so that it can be used as a source of information by each user.

When the library reopened, students came to visit the library. Visits before and after library revitalization can be seen from the following figure:



**Figure 1.** Before Revitalization



**Figure 2.** After Revitalization

Increased literacy of students will encourage them to always follow the development of information. With this information students can keep up with the times, be more creative and independent in dealing with problems in their lives.

In accordance with (Syaifur, Rohman;, 2017) which states that with the ability to read that is entrenched in every child, the level of success at school and in life in society will open up opportunities for better life success. In addition, government regulations that have been issued regarding literacy state that the government expects the formation of good character from an early age. In accordance with the statement

of Wahyuningsih, A., & Citraningrum, M., 2019 that the character comes from reading material that contains ethical values, in the form of local, national and global wisdom which is delivered according to the stage of development of students.

Reporting is prepared according to the systematics provided by the campus by outlining an introduction which contains an analysis of problems, objectives and benefits, preparation of work programs, implementation of work programs and conclusions containing evaluations, suggestions, recommendations and follow-up. Data analysis was carried out from the data obtained during the service. To improve student literacy in a sustainable manner, schools and teachers can use the library as a place for learning activities so that students do not get bored learning in class. The LED layer in the library can be used for learning media such as playing educational videos and educational films. In addition, library management officers also need to be formed so that the library can be managed and the books in it can be arranged periodically, circulation services and administrative reports to record library activities.

The results of the service (Setyowati, L. & Erdan, W., 2018) found that after the library renovation was carried out at the school where the service was held, from the first day students were enthusiastic about visiting the library. In order for the library to function properly, the school, especially the research principal, suggests maintaining the cleanliness and comfort of the library. Likewise, according to (Asy'ari, 2019) in his research he concluded that reading interest can actually be trained. Complete book collections, services, and good library design will increase students' interest in reading. (Zulaikha, S. R., Suardiman, S. P., & Kuntoro, S. A., 2016) in his dedication concluded, teachers are interested in using the library to support learning. This can be done by means of teachers carrying out assignments or learning in the library and making the library a place for information in adding material.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

The conclusion from this activity is that the library renovation which was carried out at SDN 1 Kertaharja went smoothly with not too large funds and not so long time allocation with good goals. The library can be an important tool in encouraging and developing students' thinking towards broad-minded and open thinking.

The impact that occurred after the library renovation was completed included being able to fill students' free time by reading books and visiting the library. Therefore, the library can be a new place in the teaching and learning process so that students do not feel bored when they are continuously studying in class.

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