

## The Role of Community Reading Park as A Smart Solution in Increasing The Interest in Reading at Pamupukan Village

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### Abstract

Good literacy skills positively impact various aspects of life, including education, economy, and participation in social life. However, interest in reading is still a serious problem in many countries, including Indonesia. To overcome this problem, reading parks was born as an effective solution. This service activity aims to describe the role of the community reading park (TBM NURUL ILMI) in Bakom hamlet, Pamupukan village, Ciniru, Kuningan district in increasing the reading interest of the Pamupukan community. The service model used is Community-Based Development. Data collection uses observation, interviews, and documentation. Participants in the service involved Asatidz and several residents of Bakom hamlet. Participants in the service involved 7 leaders in Pamupukan village and Bakom hamlet. With the TBM NURUL ILMI, students have a place or facility to increase students' interest in reading so that their literacy skills increase. This service implies that it is expected to be able to bridge students in Bakom village so that they are more active in reading to add broader insights and knowledge.

**Keywords:** Community; Interest Literacy; Reading; Reading Park; Students

### INTRODUCTION

The ability to read is one of the basic skills that is very important for children in continuing their education and achieving success in the future. However, in Indonesia there are still many children who experience challenges in reading. One of the factors that influence children's lack of interest in reading is the difficulty of accessing books and the lack of a reading culture in their neighborhood. Hadi (2005) explains that reading activity in Indonesia is still low and has not become a habit. Many factors influence this, one of which is the reading preference of each individual, especially students. In line with Hadi, Puslitjakbud Kemendikbud explained the "Reading Literacy Activity Index in 34 Provinces" showing data that 26% were in the sufficient category, 71% in the low category and 3% in the deficient category. (Solihin et al., 2019).

Exacerbated by the pandemic a few years ago, 79% of students were unable to access learning materials, resulting in 73% of them learning very little (Salma, 2019). Of course, this statistic is very sad, it proves that the majority of Indonesian people's literacy activities are still at a low level. There is not a single province that shows medium or high literacy activity. The low

interest in reading and writing may be due to the fact that these activities are still not enjoyed by most students. The reason is only one: laziness or thinking that reading and writing properly are not important (Aswirna & Ritonga, 2020).

The data is no different from what was found in the field by the STKIP Muhammadiyah Kuningan KKN team, that the community, in this case elementary school students in Bakom Hamlet, Pamupukan Village, Ciniru Kab. Kuningan, with a very low interest in reading. Bakom Hamlet is one of two hamlets in Pamupukan village. Most of the population earns their livelihoods as rice and field farmers. In addition, there are also traders who trade outside the city. Pamupukan Village has only 2 elementary schools, 3 Qur'anic Education Centers, 1 kindergarten, and 2 playgroups. The number of students in the schools in Pamupukan village is quite large.

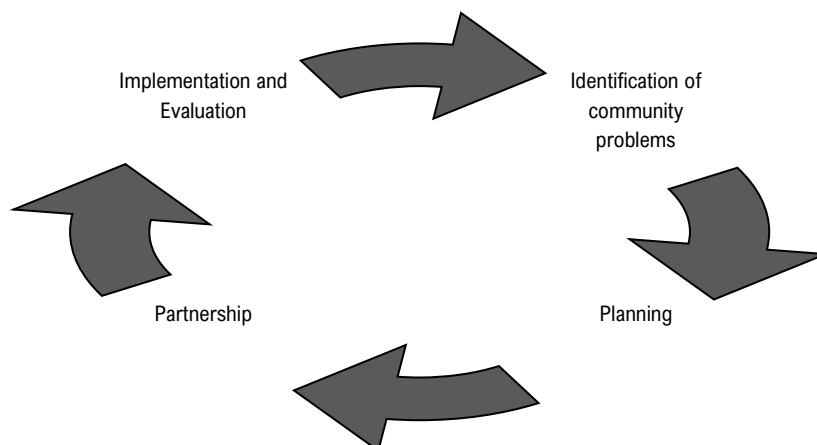
The KKN team is also involved in educational activities in Pamupukan village, so based on observations made, it is known that the level of student literacy is still very lacking. In fact, they are the millennial generation of the nation's assets. The KKN team assumes that, if the student's interest in reading is low, of course their insight and knowledge are also very concerning. From the initial interviews, it was known with several participants (Head of Hamlet, Head of Youth Organization, and Head of Youth Mosque) that several factors cause low interest in reading among students in Bakom hamlet. First, Pamupukan village is a peripheral area, with only two hamlets, namely Bakom and Jombang hamlets. Secondly, there is a lack of leaders who understand education, and thirdly, the children prefer to play with gadgets rather than reading books or doing other activities related to literacy.

Therefore, the idea arose from the STKIP Muhammadiyah KKN group to create a program of non-formal education, namely by establishing a Community Reading Park which was then given the name TBM Nurul Ilmi. This is felt to be a solution that can be given to the community. With the assumption that if children have an interest in reading, it is hoped that a love of reading will emerge, and with the availability of facilities for literacy activities, students' attention to reading will be better. Literacy is not just the ability to read and write but also the ability to understand, analyze and communicate information accurately.

Awareness of this fact encouraged the KKN team to organize their own library such as TBM. Taman Baca is a place that can meet people's needs for various types of information such as science in the form of reading materials and other library materials. This is in line with the opinion (Firdaus et al., 2022) that the presence of TBM Nurul Ilmi is expected to reduce the negative habits of children into good or more positive habits. (Prayogo & Syahputra, 2022) added that TBM Nurul Ilmi is an initiative with noble goals to overcome the challenge of low educational achievement. With the literacy movement, it can also increase students' interest and reading ability to be better developed (Anjani et al., 2019). By reading, the speaking skills of children (students) are also getting better, especially by using pop-up book media (Ningsih et al., 2021). Through the TBM Nurul Ilmi program, it is expected to build a comprehensive and sustainable reading culture.

## METHOD

This community service activity is carried out through a community-based-development model (Afandi et al., 2022). The stages carried out in this service activity according to the CBD model can be illustrated through the chart below:



**Figure 1.** Diagram of Service Activities with the CBD Model

Devotion data was collected through observation, interviews, and documentation (Anggreni & Sari, 2022). The participants involved amounted to 7 people, namely the Head of Pamupukan Village, the Head of Bakom Hamlet, Ustadz, the Head of Hamlet Youth Organization, the Head of Hamlet Mosque Youth, the Mother of Early Childhood Education Pamupukan Village, and Chairperson of the Kuningan Regency Community Reading Park Forum. Partnerships in this service include the Office of Education and Culture and the Kuningan Regional Library. Analysis and evaluation of the implementation of the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park was carried out to monitor and evaluate the flagship program of the STKIP Muhammadiyah Kuningan Real Work Lecture team.

## RESULTS

The stages carried out by KKN team in proposing the establishment of TBM Nurul Ilmi went through the following stages:

- Identification of Community Problems

Regarding the problems of the Bakom hamlet community, especially the school-age community, in this case, students. It was observed from the initial observation that the students of Bakom village tend to be cool with their gadgets, and choose shows that do not have a direct positive impact on their education, this is the negative impact of the technology collected by the Real Work Lecture team. The spectacle that children in Bakom village are very interested in is TikTok. The reason is because the videos are short and very interesting. Next, the lack or limitation of existing facilities and amenities was also identified because

Pamupukan village is a peripheral area. Coupled with the low educational background of the community.

- Planning

The team developed a plan to solve the problem or find an alternative solution to the problem. The idea emerged to establish the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park, because in Bakom hamlet there is a small room, that is not used, so it can be utilized for reading activities. Furthermore, collaborating and asking permission from the head of Bakom Hamlet about the aims and objectives of the real work study team, which is solely to facilitate students to be literate so that their insight and knowledge will increase. On July 27, 2023, the team conducted a socialization with the people of Bakom hamlet about the plan to establish the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park at the village hall. The community welcomed the program.

- Establishing Partnerships

The next step is to provide reading books. So after approval, the next step is to establish partnerships with the village, the education and culture office, the regional library, and the district community reading park forum.

- Implementation and Evaluation

On August 6<sup>th</sup> 2023, Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Kuningan Reading Park Association and attended by all Pamupukan village officials and the Bakom hamlet community. The management of Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park was handed over to the Youth Organization of Bakom hamlet. The socialization activities were enlivened with competitions for children in Early Childhood Education and Elementary School. Based on the results of monitoring and evaluation conducted by the Real Work Lecture team, the Pamupukan village community is very happy and well received the presence of the Nurul Ilmu Community Reading Park. It can be seen that every day, many children come to Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park to read, chat, play, so Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park is not quiet. With them reunited, dependence on gadgets can be reduced.



**Figure 2.** Inauguration of Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park by the Chairman of the Reading Park Association

The inauguration of Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park by the Chairman of the Kuningan Regency Reading Park Association. Imam Muhammad Agung Fauzy, S.Pd and attended by village officials as well as the community.



**Figure 3.** The Situation at Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park

Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park is always full of children who come every day, because of the diverse collection of books. When reading they look orderly, and disturb other friends.

## DISCUSSION

With this TBM Nurul Ilmi, the community can expand information, insight and knowledge through the books available. This is in line with the opinion of (Faturrahman et al., 2021) that TBMs can attract interest and active participation from the community, so that this motivates and attracts children's reading interest to increase. One of the media that can be used for reading is books. Books play an important role in various fields, such as social, cultural, technological, political and economic development (Giantara et al., 2020).

TBM can also develop the potential of the community with a number of organized activities. The community can explore and develop the potential of the area to achieve neighborhood progress. It aims to ensure that the community can listen, speak, read, write and count as well as a place to communicate with others (Karyaningsih et al., 2023). It is undeniable that TBM is one of the organizations that can help the Indonesian people in reading and utilizing useful information in life. (Prayogo & Syahputra, 2022).

TBM Nurul Ilmi is expected to be one of the containers in shaping the character and habits of children in a better and positive direction. In modern times like today, not a few children feel more comfortable staying at home spending their time playing cellphones and the like. With a picture of conditions like this, we cannot blame the child entirely. (Firdaus et al., 2022) explained the importance of a variety of reading materials to overcome children's dependence on their gadgets. So that children will have good character. This is also confirmed by (Prayogo & Syahputra, 2022) that TBM can shape children's character. Another positive impact of reading is

that literate students have knowledge and appreciation of their own culture and history as well as that of others, as literacy can influence behavior, beliefs and relationships in a multicultural world (Metiri Group, 2011). Dampak positif lain dari membaca adalah siswa yang melek huruf memiliki pengetahuan dan apresiasi terhadap budaya dan sejarah mereka sendiri serta budaya dan sejarah orang lain, karena literasi dapat memengaruhi perilaku, kepercayaan, dan hubungan di dunia yang multicultural (Miller & McKenna, 2016) .

There are also alternatives to the provision of reading materials that can be accessed online by the community, as expressed by (Jakaria et al., 2022) that this program has succeeded in improving and enhancing mini library services in Sidoarjo village. So it is good, the arrangement of books that are already available at TBM Nurul Ilmi as soon as possible to be inventoried also digitally. Book digitization is also known to affect students' interest and inclination in reading, because students today are very close to technology, they can more easily access reading material (Aswirna & Ritonga, 2020). In the future, TBM Nurul Ilmi may be able to expand activities with more variety, as implemented by TBM Rangkasbitung by forming a writing creativity group, with various forms of scientific work, such as articles, short stories, magazines, and so on. (Karyaningsih et al. 2023; Affandi 2017).

Reading should be practiced from an early age to become a good habit for future generations of children. By providing books that contain science presented with interesting pictures will cause a sense of excitement, so that children will enjoy reading (Permana et al., 2018). To strengthen and maintain the sustainability of TBM Nurul Ilmi, of course, support is needed from all parties, especially parents, so that children are more familiar and love books. This is supported by the opinion of (Kusumadewi & Reknosari, 2020) which suggests the role of parents to accompany their children to study at home. Followed by Aswirna and Ritonga (2020) It is believed that if students have good literacy skills, many skills will be honed by themselves, especially language aspects and their communication skills will be better because they have a large vocabulary. The hope is that with literacy, the ideals of producing quality graduates will be easier to achieve in addition to teacher performance. (Fayza, Nugraha, and Supriyono 2021; Salma, 2019). These are the positive impacts that can be described in this discussion, hopefully TBM Nurul Ilmi will grow and become a place that can boost reading literacy so that it becomes a culture in the community of Bokam village in particular and Indonesia in general.

## CONCLUSIONS

With the establishment of the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park, it is hoped that the problem of low interest in reading in Bakom village can be minimized. The more literacy activities that are carried out, the broader students' insights and knowledge can be added. It is necessary to increase the collection of books at Taman Baca Masyarakat Nurul Ilmi in Bakom hamlet so that visitors are more motivated to read. Next, it is necessary to improve the facilities in the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park room so that visitors feel more comfortable in the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park. The improvement of the facilities and infrastructure of the Nurul Ilmi Community Reading Park, it will also improve the educational aspects of the Bakom hamlet community.

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