

The Literacy Development of Primary School Level Students : an Investigation of Teaching and Learning in Rural Area.

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Abstract

Literacy is very important to be developed from an early age. Literacy is the initial ability that must be possessed by every individual to live life in the future. The literacy rate of children in rural areas is lower than in urban areas. So literacy even in rural areas must be cultivated so that the literacy culture in rural communities is not left behind and is useful in realizing the role of the younger generation in aspects of state development. To develop literacy, the roles of parents and teachers must work together in monitoring, facilitating, and motivating students, so that literacy is effective and can increase students' knowledge.

Keywords: *literacy, Rural area, development*

1. Intruduction

The development of literacy is important to note, because literacy is the initial ability that must be possessed by every individual to live life in the future. The younger generation is an important factor in high spirits, creative solutions and innovative manifestations. Literacy can be understood as a person's ability to read and write. Mastery of literacy is an important indicator to improve the achievements of the younger generation in achieving success. Ideally, elementary school children should be guided to understand literacy culture for the life they will live later, but in reality, elementary school children are not emphasized on the development of literacy culture so that elementary school children do not understand the importance of literacy development for each individual which will affect future life. Literacy development needs to be taught as early as possible, because literacy is the initial capital that every individual has in living the life of a nation and culture and can be used as a means to support ideals. Literacy is useful in realizing the role of the younger generation in aspects of state development.

The literacy level of students, especially children in rural areas, still has a low literacy rate. They are not used to literacy. The problem is in developing student literacy. This is caused by environmental factors and the level of education of parents. Parents in rural areas are mostly lower middle class. Therefore, they have not realized the need and importance of literacy for children.

Literacy development in formal education. The literacy movement in formal schools has been pursued in recent years. The Ministry of Education and Culture through Ministerial Regulation No. 23 of 2013 launched a school literacy movement to foster character attitudes in children through language. Simply put, every child in elementary school is required to read local stories and folklore books that have local wisdom in their reading materials before the learning process in class begins. Literacy movements are usually carried out at the beginning of learning. Students are asked to read before studying for 15 minutes. However, not all schools implement this movement. Moreover, the school does not yet have adequate library and book facilities.

2. Literatur Review

Reading literacy is just an ordinary reading activity but an activity that can build culture itself. Literacy activities refer to a person's basic ability to read and write. Related to that Romdhoni (2013: 90) states that literacy is a social event that involves certain skills, which are needed to convey and obtain information in written form. Then in line with that, Iriantara (2009: 5) explains that now literacy is not only related to the ability to read and write texts, because now "text" has expanded its meaning to include "text" in the form of visual, audiovisual and computerized dimensions. so that in the "text" together appear cognitive, affective, and intuitive elements.

3. Method

The method we use in this study is field observation, this research was conducted through a survey in rural areas. data collection or scientific writing that aims to become the object of research or library data collection, or studies conducted to solve a problem that are basically focused on critical studies. and an in-depth review of the relevant literature.

4. Results and Discussion

Interest in reading is a strong and deep concern accompanied by feelings of pleasure in reading activities so that it directs children to read on their own accord, without having to be forced. Aspects that arise in reading interest include the pleasure of reading, awareness of the benefits of reading and the frequency of children reading books. A child's interest in reading does not appear by itself. A child who has a high interest in reading requires several things, including a supportive environment, interesting reading materials and reading guidance according to the child's age level. When a child already has an interest in reading, it is very useful in the learning process that will be passed in the future.

Not only that, to foster interest in reading in children which is then expected to become a culture in themselves, it takes a long time and support from various parties. A child can be trained to read since in the womb through the sounds that are heard, then after birth the child can be taught to read through active communication, parents enter the age of toddlers, children can be accustomed to listening to fairy tales before going to bed until a desire arises in them to always increase knowledge . Literacy activities are an effort to increase knowledge and information that is useful for education.

Literacy in rural areas is still relatively low because the culture of reading and writing has not yet become an important and routine part of daily life. Especially if parents have a low level of education so that children do not know the importance of literacy. Most students in rural areas do not understand literacy and their parents also do not understand how literacy activities are carried out. Most elementary schools in rural areas have not implemented the school literacy movement. In fact, literacy activities are very important to be cultivated from an early age in urban and rural areas.

The importance of inculcating literacy for young students, by cultivating a literacy culture can support students to get achievements. Literacy mastery must be owned by every individual. Cultivating literacy, students will gain broad insight and be able to equip themselves with knowledge from various aspects of life and education and have critical, creative and innovative thinking power. Instilling literacy must be done from an early age. The first is to invite children to read a book even if it is only 1 page. If this habit is carried out continuously, it will become a literacy culture.

Instilling and cultivating literacy. Support from parents or teachers is needed. Because with this support, the children will be more enthusiastic and continue to learn more. Things parents can do to support their children are by accompanying children when reading books, telling stories or storytelling to their children, and buying books that children like. As a teacher, the teacher can apply teaching methods that are in accordance with the

circumstances of his students, so it is very important for an educator to know the characteristics of his students. To help foster literacy.

The development of information technology requires students' awareness of the importance of literacy. Good literacy skills will pave the way for other language skills, such as listening, speaking, and writing. In addition, good literacy will hone skills such as critical thinking, creative innovation and foster student character. One form of government attention to overcome this literacy problem is by launching the School Literacy Movement (GLS) program.

GLS (School Literacy Movement) is a comprehensive and sustainable effort to make schools a learning organization whose citizens are literate for life. The School Literacy Movement (GLS) strengthens the character development movement. This activity is carried out to foster students' interest in reading and improve reading skills so that knowledge can be mastered better. Referring to the 2013 curriculum method which places students as learning subjects and teachers as facilitators, literacy activities are no longer focused on students alone, teachers are not only facilitators but also learning subjects.

5. Conclusion

Reading literacy culture is not an easy thing to build because it takes awareness and enthusiasm to bring about change. Reading literacy is not just an ordinary reading activity but is an activity that can build culture itself. Literacy activities refer to a person's basic ability to read and write. The development of literacy is very important to note, because literacy is the initial ability that must be possessed by every individual to live life in the future. Literacy culture must be developed in rural areas to remote areas so that the younger generation can have a literate spirit. Mastery of literacy is an important indicator to improve the achievement of the younger generation in achieving success and increasing knowledge, information that can be understood by students in rural areas. Literacy is useful in realizing the role of the younger generation in aspects of state development.

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