

THE EMPOWERMENT OF SCHOOL LIBRARY AS THE RESOURCE IN SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

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Abstract: *Library is crucial thing to be concerned in developing the school accreditation. Library promotes access to knowledge as well as the learning and teaching resources. Furthermore, good libraries can empower learners to do self-study and access the information during the learning process. In relation to the condition of Indonesian school libraries are pathetic and the reading habit is still low, this paper aims to awake the educator and educational staff to start providing and facilitating school to have ideal library for the betterment of students and the school itself in order to improve the students reading habit and reading achievement and to achieve the national standard of accredited school.*

Keywords: *School Library, Teaching Resource, School Accreditation, and Learning Facilities.*

Abstrak: *Perpustakaan adalah hal yang penting dalam akreditasi sekolah. Perpustakaan memberikan akses yang luas untuk ilmu pengetahuan serta sumber terpercaya dalam proses belajar dan mengajar. Selain itu, perpustakaan yang baik membantu siswa untuk belajar mandiri dan mendapatkan akses informasi dalam proses belajar. Berkenaan dengan kondisi perpustakaan sekolah di Indonesia yang masih memprihatinkan dan kebiasaan membaca yang masih rendah, makalah ini bertujuan untuk memotivasi para tenaga pengajar untuk memanfaatkan perpustakaan demi kemajuan sekolah serta membantu siswa dalam meningkatkan kemampuan membaca mereka.*

Kata Kunci: *Perpustakaan Sekolah, Sumber Pengajaran, Akreditasi Sekolah, and Fasilitas Belajar.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Library is one of the “Must Have” foundations in a school because school library is the heart of a school, which itself has learning at its core and good libraries can empower the learner. According to Diem (2012) says that the importance of having good library emphasize library as the heart of teaching and learning of all levels of education especially in relation to reading attitude, interest and habit, and learning achievement. Library also as vehicle for life-long learning must develop the potential of the people so that they become faithful and God-fearing human being with noble character, good health, mastery of science, capability, creativity, autonomy and become democratic citizen and

responsible for supporting the implementation of the national education. Williams, Wavell and Coles (2001) also support that library is the resources that can allow our imaginations to run free introduce us to new experiences and promote access to knowledge and enjoyment. It is important for pupils to become independent users of information, but for this to occur it is vital that they are given the skills to learn how to find this information, how to select what is relevant, and how to use it in the best way for their own particular needs, and take responsibility for their own learning. However, most of the schools in Indonesia neglect the important role of library during the learning process.

Libraries primarily have three main activities. Sutarno (2006) summarized the there

main use of library as; first, to collect (to collect) all relevant information to the field activities and mission of the organization and the communities it serves. Second, preserve, maintain, and uphold all library collections, in order to remain in good condition, intact, wearable, and not quickly broken either by the use of or because of the time period. Third, provide and present information to readily usable and empowered entire collection gathered in the library to be used by the readers.

The condition of school library in Indonesia is really pathetic (Visi Pustaka, 2008). Some schools in remote areas don't provide library for students. The research by in 2006 said, not all schools have libraries. And not all libraries have librarians. Libraries in public and private schools also have only a limited collection of books. The only learning resource students can access is the teacher. Diem (2012) in her paper found that our society has no access for reading activities and reading program which cause the low rate of Indonesian reading habit, especially in south Sumatera. In fact, teacher also needs more additional resource from books or internet. This condition is a bit different from the one we can observe from the city school library. Because library has become one of the requirement of accredited school, so almost all of the schools now provide libraries, but most of them are still far from the ideal library which is belief to be the great resource in students' successful learning.

It is crucial to develop the service and facility of school library as well as the supporting school environment. Students in Indonesia like to spend their breaks going to cafeteria, School Park, operating their mobile phone, and chatting. They don't have good desire to read. Even library might

become the last choice to be visited instead of staying in the classroom for break. One of the ways suggested by Darmono (2007) in his finding is building the reading habit and growing the reading motivation among students because by applying this approaches, there will be a significant effect toward the students' reading comprehension skill, especially for children.

Children love stories, pictures, and colors. The most books they eager to read are story books. From this view, it is obvious to improve the library books which are not only about the school subject. The various books like short story, picture book, and encyclopedia must be up dated. Besides improving their reading habit, it is helping students build their character. Not only that, according to Douglas (2011) Evidence submitted contained examples of excellent practice in planning libraries which responded to the needs of young people. They can be characterized as comfortable and welcoming environments, offering: more social reading opportunities (book clubs, peer recommendations, drama and games based on reading); excellent book stocks which stimulated the reading of young people; more access to up-to-date technology; more targeted services aimed at meeting the particular needs of particular groups. By involving young people in the design, management and delivery of these services they feel an ownership of the school library and that it really did meet their needs. And to do these things a school must strive to improve the standards of the school library. Like Nagata, Toda and Kyumaki (2007) emphasize that using the library for its materials or research purposes is the most likely usage that has a direct connection to

students' achievement of educational outcomes. Thus there is a clear need for libraries to promote this kind of usage. And the aim of this paper itself is all about promoting the school library use to the successfulness of students' learning outcomes.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2.1 School Library

School library is an organized collection of study and teaching material aimed at pupils, teachers and other staff alike. It also includes access to local, regional, national and international information databases. The facilities material, equipment and staff of the school library as well as its operations are organized in such a way that they support learning within the pedagogic goals of the school. In support of the forming of a school library the following is an inspection of the characteristics of a good school library.

School library also has ultimate objectives and different from those which stated in common library. The objectives of the school library activity is: 1) to create an aesthetically pleasing as well as practical; 2) learning environment; 3) to provide access to sources of varied, current and useful; 4) information for both pupils and teachers; 5) to arrange the possibility to study information management; 6) skills, which forms a basis for lifelong learning; and 7) to encourage reading for pleasure.

According to Frantsi, Kolu and Salminen (2002) a school library has a special character that

differs from that of other libraries. There are: 1) The starting point for the activity is the curriculum – not the general sophisticating service of the municipality; 2) A school library is a part of the school – not an independent unit; 3) The location within the school building should be as central as possible – not at a distance; 4) The target groups are the pupils and the teachers – not the whole population of the area; 5) The library activity reaches the whole age group – not only the ones who voluntarily seek it; 6) Working methods are pedagogically justified – not service oriented; 7) The library is used by the whole class, as a group, independently – seldom optionally; 7) The material is specific and limited – not extensive and aiming at high rate of borrowing. 8) In developing the school library and the school's information and communications technology we receive fringe benefits that all belong under the umbrella term shared information strategy.

The special nature of the school library needs to be acknowledged as a part of the pedagogic development of the school.

2.2 The Function of Library

The library pick a range of benefits, including the benefits of recreation, education, research, and the benefits that are informative for the general public. The following will be described one by one.

2.2.1 The Use of Library for the Benefit of Recreation

In general, the reading can be classified into two; Reading for practical purposes, it means reading to obtain practical results. The practical

result is to have a broad sense as to pass the exam, understand a problem, and know the background of the issue. Second, the reading for cultural purposes. Recreation cultural nature of this is by way of reading. Reading facility is provided by the public library. In order to perform the function of this recreation, public libraries usually cooperated with components such popular authors, publishers who publish books best seller paper manufacturers, bookstores, reader elements of the various parties and by itself also library manager. To further streamline the functions of recreation, the library may be thought showings quality films to ever win the festivals are followed by discussions in terms of theme, background or setting, characterizations, and so on.

2.2.2 The Use of the Library in the Education Sector

The library is a non-formal and informal education facility, meaning that the library is a place of learning outside of school and also a place of learning in the educational environment of the school. In this case, related to non-formal education is a public library, whereas the informal education is related to the school library and the college library, for those who have left school or dropped out of school, the library is a continuous learning practical, and inexpensive.

2.2.3 The Use of the Research Library Department

Without a research library impossible can be done well, because good research should be supported by a variety of information, in the form of theories (reference) and the results of research

previously or may have been carried out by previous researchers. Library right to obtain information related to the research is in the library that is special, because this particular type of library usually specializes in certain fields of science.

Library suitable for the purpose of research is the college library. This is in accordance with the mission of the college is the mission of Tri Dharma College is teaching, research and community service. Special to the noble dharma study of college students either at diploma to doctorate level, even among teachers or lecturers are not able to be separated in terms of research activities. Thus, the college library shall prepare information relating to research activities, both references and summaries or abstracts of research results.

It needs to be held with regard to the relationship between the research or research library is a library that specializes in the collection of the results of research only, where the library was the link with other libraries, especially university libraries are accessible quickly and easily. The library can also be used to inventory the results of research that has been done, so there is no duplication of research results or plagiarism of research results, as often happens in college.

2.2.4 The Use of Library for the Information Needs of the Community

Communities can take the advantage of the public library as a source of information, because in the collection owned by the general public library. Common here means uneven, both in terms of distribution and coverage as well as its field of knowledge. Distribution of public

collections, mean almost all fields or areas of study available. In other words, all kinds of resources from lower levels (basic) up to the highest level available in the library. Users also common people or society at large without distinction of social status and level of education. Users of primary school to the community college are served by the library. Hence the depth of information they have is not too high, but the generalities.

Common type library was established to serve the information needs of the community as a whole in a particular area without separating stratification in society, starting from the work as laborers, rickshaw drivers, teachers, and students.

Any society and is entitled to use the facilities of any of the various resources available in the library. Because it is so general, all aspects relating to the library, then there are some people who call it the nickname of the university people public library serves as a means for public universities.

It is expected that public libraries more participate in promoting and improving the general reading public interest, events such as the awarding Library Award 2003 for example to inspire the general public to learn more about libraries and librarians. Only competitions like these should be disseminated to the community and the broader themes of the writing light and can be followed by various groups, levels and various professions in the community.

2.3 The Condition of Indonesia's School Library

The school library in Indonesia is really in the pathetic condition as reported by Kompas (2012) there are 76.000 schools in Indonesia have not got any libraries. Libraries are known as a 'must have' standard facility in a school to improve the quality of education. The schools which have no library mostly are the new schools located in remote areas. This condition is even more pathetic when the school only provides rooms and teachers for students to learn. They don't have any access for self-study which those activities are believed that will make the most of student's learning outcomes. Thus, the best place for all the accessible activities is library.

Meanwhile, libraries at schools have been becoming the responsibility of the cultural education minister who generates the budget allocation for education and lately the budget has been increased. With the increasing budget, actually the libraries service and facilities should increase as well. In fact, in most of the school library, the facilities are far under the minimum standard of library. The book collections are out-of-date, the numbers of the books are just a few, short time service, incompatible librarian and the inconvenience of library atmosphere as the learning center become the most problem in school library.

Furthermore, those problems cause the big reduction for the use of school library. Students in their break time don't like visiting library. However, most students spend their time at cafeteria, chat, play around, listen to music or even visit their social networks. Darmono (2007)) says that this phenomena caused by the unattractive library in their school. School library must promote the atmosphere which makes the

students aware about the function of library since the library plays the important part of students learning outcomes.

2.4 The Needs of School Library for School Accreditation

Indonesia is recently doing progressions toward the quality of the education. Government has given guidance for schools to develop themselves and provide ideal services in every feature of needed section. This guidance is stated and written in *Pedoman Akreditasi Sekolah (2009)* which compulsorily orders every school to obey those criteria stated in the guidance module and develop their own school to be accredited.

Library is stated in the point of school accreditation standard as one of the must have service provided by school. The library can be called as standard library if the library has large space, various and good book collections, and librarian with the appropriate educational background. However, some important features of ideal library have not strongly stated.

2.5 The Benefits of Having School Library

Library as always regarded as one of the pillars of information, connecting people to knowledge, artifacts, and channelizing right information to the right person at right time has remained as one of the objectives of library service.

Library school somehow looks like different from public library commonly. The

range only can be accessed by the educational practitioners like teachers, students and even educational staff. Furthermore, school is the true learning atmosphere that needs library as the true access to achieve the learning goals.

A school needs a library because libraries support the school's work of literacy and education. A school library is useful in literacy work from the earliest stage because it encourages good reading habits to be formed when children are young. All teachers should aim to stimulate children's curiosity about books and to encourage students to start loving the written word. One of the best ways of doing this is to set up a school library with a wide variety of information and fiction books. The vocabulary range of these books should suit all skill levels, so that even reluctant students will be able to read what they want, when they want, for their studies.

A library should also have stock that is fun to read. When students discover that soccer yearbooks, novels and magazines are also in the library they may start to spend some of their leisure time reading. The more students read, the faster their English will improve. This will help them in their studies and when they leave school. The school library supports the student's studies. Every library collection will have information that can improve students' understanding of the subjects they learn at school, and increase their knowledge of the world.

A school library may also have books by local writers that will encourage students' interest and pride in the local area. As well as providing access to information, a school library allows students to develop the skills of searching for information on their own. This will help to

develop a problem-solving and active approach to learning. Pupils who regularly look up information in books will improve both their form work and their reading skills.

In the study by Edmunds and Bauserman (2009) the importance of the school library was revealed throughout the interviews as children discussed how they found out or knew about the books they were reading. When discussing narrative and expository text, the children overwhelmingly reported that they found out about their books from the school library. Other libraries, such as the classroom library and the local or county library, were also mentioned but not as frequently. The children's responses indicated that exposure to the school library as well as to other libraries positively affected the children's motivation to read by introducing them to a variety of books.

A study, reported by Hopkins (1989), investigated the role of the library in promoting 'positive self-concepts' in children, which are defined as the individual's perception of their self-worth and abilities. The observational case study approach used in the research was conducted in three primary level libraries. In particular the library can impact positively on pupils' self-concepts through the factors of: cooperation, independence, success, challenge, feeling of value, and creating a positive atmosphere. The results showed that the library has the potential to play an enhancing role in developing students' positive self-concepts and thus help them achieve academically.

Besides having great objectives, library also gains great and beneficial function to teacher. All staff, whether math, woodwork, home economics,

science or geography teachers, can improve their form teaching by using stock from the library. Libraries are a source of information for every teacher, not just for English teachers. Using the books and other stock in the library will help teachers prepare their lessons better. It may also encourage teachers to give students project work that asks them to go to the library and find out information for their form work. This will encourage students to study, learn and achieve better results as well as give them the confidence to start looking for information on their own.

School libraries help teachers to use a broader range of teaching strategies. Project work, individual study, group research, reading and the teaching of ICT, amongst other things, can all take place within the school library, and in providing this flexible place for learning, teachers themselves are encouraged to widen and enrich their own teaching strategies. By supporting and giving access to a broad range of information sources the school library can motivate pupils and stimulate learning by providing the means to freely pursue subjects which fully engage them.

2.6 The Roles of Educational Staff toward the School Library

Library is believed to be the most important part of a school. It's a place for all the practitioners of education find many benefits to make the most of the library use. Teachers are not the only practitioners who struggle to play their role in promoting library to the students, but Educational staffs like the librarians. Librarians even take the most important part of this job.

School librarians are professionals who hold teaching degrees, as well as librarian certification. School librarians may also be referred to as teacher-librarians or library media specialists. School librarians are in unique positions within their schools because they: 1) manage and operate a major learning environment used by the whole school community; 2) make a significant impact on teaching and learning; 3) make reading relevant and enjoyable; 4) motivate both the convinced and unconvinced reader; 5) keep up-to-date and is part of the big picture; 6) are leaders not a follower; 7) encourage readers to be creative and innovative.

2.7 Good Library for Students Learning Outcomes

Nagata, Toda, Kyumaki (2007) say that the most notable thing- points to the strong correlations between this activity and students' achievement of educational outcomes and the library use. This statement strongly gives impact to the school to provide good library. Furthermore language is really good place to do self-study better than at home. The environment and the atmosphere of library will motivate student to be able to achieve the most of their learning outcomes.

The role of library according to Williams (2001), the role of school library: 1) To take a lead role in teaching and learning information literacy across the curriculum; 2) To collaborate with teaching colleagues to embed information literacy across the curriculum; 3) To provide targeted teaching for pupils and inset for staff; 4) To provide an environment suitable for group and

independent research; 5) To provide a wide range of resources; 6) To provide opportunities to browse and discover; 7) To stimulate independent learning.

Meanwhile, the outcomes that students can achieve during their learning process within the influence of the library use, the students are able to: 1) Identify problems and relevant questions; 2) Access and evaluates information critically; 3) Compare and contrasts key ideas and concepts; 4) Synthesize relevant information; 5) Reflect and question conclusions; 6) Communicate effectively with understanding and originality.

These outcomes involve skills that reflect progression and learning.

2.8 Library Today

A library is a room or building where books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, cassettes and videos are kept together. These items are known as the library's stock. In the stock all kinds of information can be found.

The school library collection may contain for example: 1) Nonfiction literature as well as study and work books; 2) Suitable for reference library that vary in their level of difficulty; 3) Selections of stories, tales, short stories and poetry suitable for different age groups; classics; changing selection of children's books and youth literature for pre-primary and primary education class rooms; and some of the new novels; 4) newspapers and magazines that prerequire different reading and language skills; 5) Brochures, reports, yearbooks and annuals good quality student work; 6) slides, compact disc video, micro films; 7) Video tapes (right of use

obtained e.g. Finnish broadcasting company's educational videos); 8) DVD recordings; 9) Compact discs, tape cassettes and audio book; 10) CD-rooms, e-books; 11) Floppy discs and computer programmes; 12) Internet and TV-channels; 13) Pedagogic and psychological literature.

In addition the school library may have special collections which may contain: 1) Rare and unusual books; 2) Historical books donated by parents and students; 3) Archive material; 4) Books by local authors or pupils of the school.

A library may be large or small. Some people think libraries have to be large to work well, but this is not so. Many secondary schools have fewer than 200 books and most primary schools have even fewer. Baird (2001) to make the best use of school books you need to organize them carefully, and the best way to do that is by setting up a library.

According to Diem (2009) says that the important features that a library must have are the ICT devices, current books, various book collections and the length of service hours and those features have been proven in her paper will improve the students visit to the library and their achievement.

The increasing frequency of the library visit is believed will improve students' learning achievement. Therefore, as the educational staff and educators, we need to find other important clues about how to succeed in empowering school library to be one of the accessible resources by all the education practitioners.

According to Williams, there are ten success steps to make the most of library use, the top ten steps to success are: 1) Range of stock to

reflect the whole curriculum; 2) Collaborative planning between teaching staff and the librarian; 3) Use of the library included in curriculum planning and schemes of work; 4) Collections of resources for topic teaching; 5) Texts to support literacy across the curriculum; 6) Fiction to support curriculum topics; 7) Identified and bookmarked websites; 8) Celebrating success – displaying.

3. CONCLUSION

School library is one of the important parts in a school. It helps students achieve their learning outcomes at the most. Library must be set up as a learning media that allows students to have self-study out of the classroom. Library has great benefits for teachers as well. Thus, library is a part that can't be abandoned as standard facility a school must have.

In Indonesia, library is neglected as well as its function and role. Those libraries even have not been completely situated to meet the students need to the accessible resource toward their learning. Therefore, this paper shows that there are many important things to be provoked to build motivation to start setting up library for the betterment of students' outcomes.

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