

## RAISING UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN'S READING INTEREST BY PROVIDING A MINI LIBRARY 'POJOK PUSTAKA'

Marlinda IRWANTI<sup>1</sup>, Morissan MORISSAN<sup>2\*</sup>  
<sup>1,2</sup>*Sekolah Pascasarjana, Universitas Sahid, Jakarta*  
*\*morissan@usahid.ac.id*

### ABSTRACT

Indonesian people's interest in reading is still very low compared to other countries. UNESCO data states that Indonesia ranks second lowest in the world in terms of literacy. Of 61 countries, Indonesia ranks 60th in terms of reading interest. The public's lack of interest in reading should encourage the relevant parties to as soon as possible facilitate and analyze what is the cause of this. One solution to encourage interest in reading among the younger generation, especially children, is to provide library facilities for children. This community development program was carried out on September 18, 2022, to provide a mini library named 'Pojok Pustaka' for the children of the Hafidhin Royan Orphanage, South Jakarta City. The service activity has been successfully carried out by providing reading bookshelves that are placed in locations that are easily accessible to children. Observations made to the responses of the children living in the orphanage showed that they were very enthusiastic and happy to read various children's story books provided at Pojok Pustaka. In an effort to anticipate of boredom the collection of books in the Pojok Pustaka will continue to be added gradually so that children who come to read to Pojok Pustaka always find new things to read.

**Keywords:** reading interest, children, orphanage, library, books

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The reading interest of the Indonesian people today is still very low compared to other countries. UNESCO data states that Indonesia ranks second from the bottom in terms of world literacy, which means reading interest is very low with a percentage of 0.001 percent, or out of 1,000 Indonesians, only one person is diligent in reading (Bustomi, 2022). Of 61 countries, Indonesia ranks 60th in terms of interest in reading. This low interest in reading occurs both among adults and children. This condition is undoubtedly very concerning when there is widespread and easy access to reading books today (Widianto, 2017).

There are several factors that cause the lack of interest in reading in Indonesia (Widianto, 2017). The social environment is an important factor because it indirectly shapes one's habits. The family, as the closest environment, often does not cultivate the habit of reading. Parents even limit the purchase of books to various considerations, especially for reasons of cost. In addition, if the circle of friends of the younger generation does not like to read, it is almost certain that they will tend to follow the habits of their friends who do not like to read.

In addition, there is a tendency among today's younger generation to want everything to be fast or instant and to stop appreciating the process. Reading a book requires perseverance in understanding every page of the book. However, it is this reading process that is difficult for the younger generation to go through and enjoy because they are too lazy to go through the reading process to understand the contents of the book (Warsita, 2008).

The public's lack of interest in reading should encourage the relevant parties to as soon as possible facilitate and analyze what is the cause of this. In this case, of course, cooperation between writers, publishers, and the government is very much needed in the procurement of reading sources (BPKP, n.d). First, writers are needed because they are authors and seekers of information sources who will pour ideas and knowledge into the public. Second, publishers are needed to facilitate writers in publishing their works. Because it is very difficult if a writer has to print and publish his own work, except with very large funds. Third, the role of the government is very much needed to provide subsidies for books, especially textbooks that are very much needed by the nation's younger generation (Anusapati, 2003).

The government should provide a special budget for improving library services that can be easily accessed by anyone, especially the younger generation, and, of course, more efficient for those who have minimal funds to buy books. To increase the love of libraries, it takes a high interest in reading and awareness to find the latest sources of information in the community. Some things that can be done are having a personal book collection, forming a mini library, and building a school library, office, or national library (Jatinegara & Luna, 2009).

### 2. METHOD

One solution to encourage the reading interests of the younger generation, especially children, to love reading is to provide mini-libraries in places that are frequented by children, for example, in playgrounds, schools, or other public

spaces. Providing a mini library cannot be done by all levels of society, but it would be nice if certain individuals who have a higher standard of living and have the concern to be willing to donate to simply form a mini library whose scope is at the level of a neighborhood unit (Mangkoespoetro, 2004).

Muhsin & Supriyanto (2009) suggest various ways of managing mini libraries, including issuing membership cards at affordable costs and, if necessary, without other borrowing costs (Muhsin & Supriyanto, 2009). However, if the average living standard of the residents around this mini library is below the poverty line, then complete personal data is needed for each borrower who comes to reduce the risk of losing books (Mudhofir, 1992).

Minimizing library administration costs is absolutely necessary to maintain public interest in visiting so that visitors remain and the library is not just used as a display in the community (Warsita, 2008). Children's mini libraries are very useful for increasing children's knowledge outside of school and providing new knowledge for those who do not have the opportunity to go to school (Noerhayati, 1986). In addition, children also have a place to spend their time on positive things (Munir, 2009). And for adults, of course, this mini library can be used as the closest reading facility in spare time and provides up-to-date information that is very much needed in association and work competition (Warsita, 2008).

In an effort to foster an interest in reading among children, especially underprivileged children, it is necessary to procure a mini library in the neighborhood where the children live (Mudhofir, 1992). The books provided in the mini library are not much different from other libraries in general, namely reading for children to the elderly, only in limited numbers due to limited space. However, because the procurement of this community service activity is planned to be carried out in an orphanage that is mostly inhabited by children, the type of reading that is prioritized to be provided in the mini library is the type of children's book.

The reading books that will be prepared in the 'Pojok Pustaka' mini library are textbooks, story books, and general knowledge books that can open up children's horizons. To attract children's interest in reading, story books such as illustrated comic books that are loved by children will be provided.

The location of activity will be held at the Hafidhin Royan orphanage which is under the auspices of the Hafidhin Royan Yatim Foundation, which is located on Jl. Bhakti Indah No.32, RT.2/RW.5, Ciganjur, Kec. Jagakarsa, South Jakarta City, Special Capital Region of Jakarta. The reason for choosing this orphanage as a place for implementing community service programs is that this orphanage is a well-managed orphanage but does not yet have a library as a means for the children who live in the orphanage to build their reading interests.

### ***Choosing target audience***

In addition to the orphanage, another location initially considered for the implementation of this community service activity was the Child-Friendly Integrated Public Space (RPTRA), which is a public space in the form of a child-friendly green open space equipped with various facilities that support child development, parental comfort, as well as a place to interact with all citizens from various walks of life.

The process of developing, supervising, and maintaining the RPTRA involves the surrounding community. In DKI Jakarta Province, RPTRA is located in every sub-district. Some of the RPTRAs were built with funding from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD), while others were built using donations from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. RPTRA is open to the public and built in the middle of residential areas so that the benefits can be felt by local residents. The facilities in the RPTRA are not only child-friendly but also disabled-friendly. In addition, RPTRA is also equipped with CCTV (closed circuit television) surveillance, which makes this area have a good security system, so parents don't have to worry about the safety of their children when playing and studying.

However, based on observations made so far, several RPTRAs have provided reading books for children. RPTRA has become a good starting point to encourage the growth of interest in reading among the younger generation. Based on this consideration, the community service program that will be implemented chose the location at the Hafidhin Royan orphanage, which is under the auspices of the Hafidhin Royan Yatim Foundation, which is located on Jl. Bhakti Indah No.32, RT.2/RW.5, Ciganjur, Kec. Jagakarsa, Jakarta.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The procurement of the Pojok Pustaka mini library at the Hafidhin Royan Orphanage was carried out on September 18, 2022, through the delivery of the 'Pojok Pustaka' signboard, bookshelves, and a number of reading books to the manager of the Hafidhin Royan Orphanage. However, before D-day, a number of preparations have been made as follows:

**Build contacts.** One of the implementers of this community service, Mrs. Marlina Irwanti Purnomo, contacted Mr. Syafaat, the head of the Hafidhin Royan Orphanage, to convey the plan to provide mini library facilities to the children who live in the orphanage. This plan was welcomed by the leadership of the Hafidhin Royan Orphanage. He approved the implementation of the mini library procurement to be carried out on September 18, 2022. The head of this community service executive, namely Mr. Morissan, then contacted Mr. Syafaat again to explain the technical plan for implementing the community service program. Intercession was asked for written approval regarding the plan for the implementation of community service.

**Equipment preparation.** Procurement of the Pojok Pustaka mini library requires equipment that includes, among others, bookshelves, nameplates, banners, small tables, and carpets with the following descriptions:

- 1) The chosen bookshelf is a Montessori five-level stacked shelf (dimensions 60x30x75cm), a minimalist multipurpose bookshelf (Figure 2). This bookshelf is made of particle board material with a maximum capacity of 50 kg. Bookshelves are purchased in online stores in a decomposed form, so they need to be assembled first (Figures 1 & 2). Because the height of the bookshelf is relatively short, it needs to be placed on a small table so that it is easier for visitors to choose books and is also aesthetically pleasing to the eye.
- 2) The required banner is 2 meters long and 1 meter wide with the words "Community Service Program. Sahid University Graduate School. Growing children's reading interest through the procurement of a mini-library 'POJOK PUSTAKA'. Jakarta, September 18, 2022. The banner displays the logo of the Graduate School on the left side.
- 3) The table used is a standard kindergarten class table and functions to place bookshelves so that it looks more aesthetically pleasing. The small table that supports the bookshelves that were used at the beginning was still in poor condition because a lot of the paint had faded, so it needed to be repainted to make it look good (Figure 3).
- 4) The nameplate that says 'Pojok Pustaka' is made of white acrylic material with black writing, which is used as the name of the mini library. The nameplate displays the logo of the Usahid graduate school on the left side.

### ***Activity Implementation***

On September 18, 2022, the equipment described above and other assistive devices were brought to the location of community service activities at the Hafidhin Royan orphanage located on Jl. Bhakti Indah No.32, RT.2/RW.5, Ciganjur, Kec. Jagakarsa, Jakarta. Present on the day of the activity were Mr. Syafaat, the caretaker of the Hafidhin Royan orphanage, the chief executive of the community service program Morissan, the team member Marlinda Irwanti Purnomo, and the children who lived in the orphanage, totaling about 20 people. For the purpose of the inauguration ceremony, a bookshelf was placed in front of the office of the orphanage administrator, and an event banner was placed on it.

The inauguration of the procurement of the Pojok Pustaka mini library was marked by the handing over of the Pojok Pustaka nameplate from Mrs. Irwanti to Mr. Syafaat and followed by the symbolic handing over of library collection books from Mr. Morissan to Mr. Syafaat (Figure 4). Next, the committee invited the children who lived in the orphanage who had been waiting to have a look and choose the books they wanted to read. The children enthusiastically chose the available books and immediately read them on the carpet that had been installed in front of the Pojok Pustaka bookshelf (Figures 7 & 8).

The orphans living in the orphanage stated that they were very happy with the availability of the mini library. They thanked the Graduate School of Sahid University for taking the initiative to provide them with a mini library. In addition, they also hope that the collection of books in Pojok Pustaka can be added continuously in the future. On that occasion, Irwanti's mother asked the children living in the orphanage about their dreams (Figure 7). Mrs. Irwanti Purnomo advised the children to read books diligently in order to become knowledgeable individuals and achieve their goals. At the end of the activity, a group photo session was held in front of the orphanage dormitory (Figure 9).

In an effort to anticipate the occurrence of boredom among children's readers, it is planned that the book collection will gradually be added and efforts will be made to periodically exchange books between libraries so that children who come to read from the mini library always find something new to read. The addition of collections and mini library facilities will be carried out through community service activities in the next period.



Figure 1: The bookshelf is still in a state of disrepair.



Figure 2: Assembling components into a five-tier bookshelf



Figure 3: Assembling components into a five-tier bookshelf



Figure 4: Symbolic handing over of children's reading books to the caretaker of the orphanage



Figure 5: Group photo with the orphanage caretaker and the children who live in the orphanage



Figure 6: Documentation of community service activities



Figure 7: Motivate children to be diligent in reading books



Figure 8: The children who live in the orphanage are enthusiastic about reading books



Figure 9: Taking a group photo in front of the orphanage

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- 1) In comparison to other nations, Indonesians continue to have extremely little interest in reading. Indonesia has the second-lowest literacy percentage in the world, according to UNESCO statistics. In terms of reading interest, Indonesia comes in at number 60 out of 61 nations. The public's lack of interest in reading should motivate the pertinent parties to facilitate and investigate what the reason of this is as soon as feasible. The provision of children's libraries is one way to promote reading among the younger population, especially children.
- 2) On September 18, 2022, this community development project was completed to give the kids of the Hafidhin Royan Orphanage in South Jakarta City access to a little library called "Pojok Pustaka." By putting reading bookshelves in places where kids may easily access them, the service activity has been successfully carried out.
- 3) The children's comments revealed that they were quite excited and glad to read the many picture books offered by Pojok Pustaka. In an effort to prevent boredom in the future, the library's book collection will continue to be gradually increased so that kids who visit the Pojok Pustaka to read will always have fresh books to read.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and foremost, we would like to thank Research and Community Development Institution (LPPM), Universitas Sahid Jakarta that guided us in doing these projects. LPPM has provided us with invaluable advice and helped us in supporting this project. We also thank project reviewers whose motivation and help contributed tremendously to the successful completion of the project. Besides, we would like to thank to Bpk Syafaat from Panti Asuhan Yatim Piatu Hafidhin Royan who helped us by giving us advice and providing the equipment which we needed. Also we would like to thank Sekolah Pascasarjana Universitas Sahid, Jakarta for the support. Without that support we couldn't have succeeded in completing this project. At last but not in least, we would like to thank everyone who helped and motivated us to work on this project.

#### REFERENCE

- Anusapati (2003). Peran Perpustakaan dalam Meningkatkan Minat Baca. Buletin Media Informasi. Yogyakarta. UPT Perpustakaan Universitas Gajah Mada
- Bustomi (26 Januari 2022). Minat Baca Warga Indonesi Terendah di Dunia. Republika. <https://www.republika.co.id/berita/r6brb5314/minat-baca-warga-indonesi-terendah-di-dunia>
- Jatinegara, I., and Mantyasih, L. (2009). *Ragam Inspirasi Perpustakaan Rumah*. Niaga Swadaya.
- Mangoesapoetro, A. (2004). Pemanfaatan Media Massa Sebagai Sumber Pembelajaran IPS di Tingkat Persekolahan. <http://www.pendidikan.net>
- Mudhofir (1992). Prinsip-prinsip Pengelolaan Pusat Sumber Belajar. Bandung. Remaja Rosdakarya
- Muhsin, Ahmad. Wahyu Supriyanto (2009). *Teknologi Informasi Perpustakaan*. Jakarta. Kanisius
- Munir (2009). *Kurikulum Berbasis TIK*. Bandung. Alfabeta
- Noerhayati (1986). Pengelolaan Perpustakaan jilid 1. Bandung. Alumni Perpustakaan Digital. <http://ms.wikipedia.org>
- Rustantiningsih (2008). Pembelajaran Berbasis Internet Untuk Meningkatkan Mutu Pendidikan Pada Siswa Sekolah Dasar. <http://www.pendidikan.net>

- Supriyanto, W. and Muhsin, A. (2009). Teknologi Informasi Perpustakaan (kutipan pendapat Wandoyo:2007). Kanisius.
- Warsita, B. (2008). Teknik pembelajaran, landasan dan aplikasinya. Jakarta. PT Rineka Cipta.
- Widianto, S (16 Maret 2017). Soal Minat Baca, Indonesia Peringkat 60 dari 61 Negara. Pikiran Rakyat.  
<https://www.pikiran-rakyat.com/pendidikan/pr-01276584/soal-minat-baca-indonesia-peringkat-60-dari-61-negara-396477>

**Video Links**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17B7jBv8Necp6s2K1QESPTzc5U28lxYqM/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EPAJAVaFyEuuKjA09osaMvIUdU22GXev/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R99pQ2h8f18WpM2Yqy3PwsHRXsSY9y6S/view?usp=sharing>