



The Role of the Digital Reading Corner (POCADI) in Fostering Public Interest in Reading in the Reading Corner of the Astaka Pulpit Ex MTQ Merdeka Square, Tebing Tinggi

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the role of POCADI (Digital Reading Corner) in Fostering Community Reading Interest in the Astaka Eqs Mtq Tebing-High Corner Pulpit, the efforts made to foster reading interest and the obstacles experienced by POCADI (digital reading corner). The method used in this study is a qualitative method using a descriptive approach. A qualitative method with a descriptive approach as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the people or behavior observed, while the data collection techniques used in this study were observation, interviews and documentation. The results of this study indicates that the efforts made by the Digital Reading Corner consist of collaborating with schools, improving facilities and infrastructure, promoting and socializing.

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1. INTRODUCTION

We must be very, very aware that reading is so important and has a social role in human life throughout the ages. From reading we can benefit. Reading is a process of acquiring information, understanding, and analytic abilities, and it is very important for the human condition. By reading, a person will reach a very high level of knowledge and mental development (Shofaussamawati, 2014).

Reading culture in Indonesia is still considered very low, as can be seen from the lack of interest in reading among the general public, both non-student students, employees, and non-workers. On the other hand, by reading, we can get new information and stay abreast of the latest developments. Reading as a bridge of knowledge may have astonishing consequences when used in everyday life.

It can be seen from the small number of library visitors, the reading culture of Tebing Tinggi is still very low. The low interest in reading is influenced by the availability of television and other audio-visual media which are so fast and inventive that they gradually change people's reading habits.

The number of residents of Kota Tebing Tinggi who can read and write has decreased slightly since 2014, according to data from the Kota Tebing Tinggi Basic Profile Survey. The decline in literacy rates from 99.90 percent in 2014 to 99.23 percent in 2015 shows this. (University of North Sumatra, 2017)

Interest in reading is a problem that is quite significant and deep for reading activities, because it can motivate someone to read independently. Children should be encouraged to read from a young age, because this is the optimal period for them to assimilate new information and be implicitly inculcated with life values.

An increase in reading interest cannot occur without a deliberate effort to inspire and cultivate reading habits. As an institution that encourages the development of reading, every library must plan creative and encouraging activities that are directly related to the problem of public interest in reading (General, 2019).

With the aim that people are wiser and easier to find the latest information, a digital reading corner service can be established. Their love for books will develop as they immerse themselves in the many options that digital reading areas provide. In this regard, the presence and existence of digital reading corners is certainly not to compete with existing libraries, but rather to build synergies and complement the functions and roles of libraries simultaneously. With this synergy and spirit of togetherness, it is hoped that people's interest in reading will continue to be encouraged.

The survey results show that the general public, students, and college students who often visit Pocadi often come to do lecture assignments and look for materials to do their assignments.

Based on observations made by researchers, Pocadi has visitors from the general public, students and students. Pocadi digital reading corner reads books via the internet, computers and websites. Pocadi still provides printed reading materials such as reference books and there are not many other collections because they have just been inaugurated and the books in Pocadi are the result of a grant from the National Library of Indonesia.

Pocadi provides digital-based books because basically Pocadi is intended to foster interest in reading and make people smarter so as to create an intelligent society for the latest information. Pocadi also has media to support all existing activities, such as laptops, computers, TV subscriptions, android phones, and notebooks. The facilities and infrastructure in the Reading Corner at the Astaka Pulpit Ex Mtq Merdeka Field Tebing-High are also quite good, the facilities and infrastructure found in this Pocadi such as Full AC rooms and free WIFI.

Through Pocadi, you can also find the latest information and increase knowledge, allow for the development of insight, and become a forum for learning activities so that people are more motivated to develop an intelligent society and make people more fond of reading. Among the activities other than reading that are often carried out at Pocadi Pocadi Astaka Mimbar Ex MtQ Merdeka Tebing-High Field is a Designer study conducted by Tebing Tinggi

The existence of this digital reading corner pocadi is expected to be able to educate the public through the Digital Library with the aim of being a smart city and can help all levels of society both grow interest in reading and make people smarter in finding the latest information.

2. RESEARCH METHODE

This research is a descriptive type of research that uses qualitative methods. Using a descriptive research approach, the aim is to provide a factual picture of the thing or topic under study. Because researchers collect data by meeting and engaging with people directly, qualitative research is also referred to as an inquiry strategy.

Observation is a technique that can be used to determine nonverbal behavior. Observation is an activity carried out by seeing, hearing, smelling, or listening to an object of research and then concluding from what has been observed directly in the field (Yusuf, 2017, p.384). Observations are classified into participating observations, overt and covert observations, and unstructured observations. (Sugiyono, 2008).

An interview is a meeting of two people to exchange information and ideas through question and answer, so that meaning can be constructed in a certain topic (Sugiyono in Esterberg, 2008, p.231). In this study, researchers will use semi-structured interviews. Semi-structured interviews are informal interviews, in practice, these interviews are more free and provide a wide range of respondents so that they can find problems more openly, where the parties invited to the interview are asked for their opinions and ideas.

The documentation referred to in this research is the collection of data in research to obtain data in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, documents, regulations, agendas and so on.

3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The Role of Pocadi (Digital Reading Corner) in Fostering Reading Interest

To be sure, the library must be well known. To foster a society that values creativity and innovation, libraries are essential. In the library, you can study, do research and gather knowledge. To be creative and imaginative, libraries can be a great resource for individuals. Educators can also benefit from the use of public libraries. The library is certainly not only a storehouse of one's own views, but also as a place to educate the wider community.

From the results of the research that the researchers got and the results of the interviews described in the previous chapter that there are several roles of Pocadi in Fostering Public Interest in Reading, namely as follows:

As a Literacy Enhancer A literate person is able to obtain, interpret, and apply information correctly through reading, writing, listening, or speaking (Budihart, 2018). Another view is that literacy is a set of abilities that include the ability to read, write, and think critically, creatively, and innovatively, all of which are interrelated (Syonoi, 2017). To be truly literate, one must be able to use printed, visual, and digital sources of information to engage in critical thinking and reading and writing skills. (Rohim, 2020).

Literacy refers to a set of skills and a person's ability to read, write, count, speak, and solve problems in everyday life. If this ability is not met, it will be difficult to find information. So literacy must be improved including the level of reading, critical thinking and skills in using technology. So from that it can be said that Pocadi's role in growing interest in reading is as a literacy booster where Pocadi helps the community in increasing scientific knowledge and helps master science and technology.

Make it easier to find information from Ipusnas. Research, preservation, information and fun can all be found in the library, making it the ideal place to educate the nation's future

leaders. The degree of civilization and culture of a nation can be measured by the ability of its population to understand science and technology.

Efforts Made by POCADI (Digital Reading Corner) in Fostering Reading Interest

Everyone's efforts are motivated by the desire to avoid anything that is deemed unnecessary or annoying, and therefore, they are an attempt to find a solution to the problem. (Surayin 2001:66.5).(Bidinger, 1981)

The generation that likes to read from an early age is not easy to grow into a member of the library. To set a good example for their visitors, libraries must show them how much they enjoy reading. Citizens as a young generation, who deserve learning and knowledge from an early age, of course must have an interest in reading from an early age. Moreover, information today is very important.

Developing one's character requires a regular diet to read in this information-laden age. Adding information and broadening your horizons are just some of the benefits of reading. However, people are not interested in reading if they don't find it interesting. An indicator of the success of a nation can be seen from how much time its citizens spend reading every day. There would be a higher level of culture in a country if more people read on their own time without being encouraged to do so.

The intellectual life of the nation is carried out by encouraging people to read and by building and equipping libraries as a place to store written, printed, and recorded works of art. It is necessary to carry out activities that encourage people to read, so that they understand that reading is an important element in creating a culture that loves to learn. It has the ability to stimulate interest in reading in the community as a library institution through various initiatives.

Based on the results of the interviews described in the previous chapter, the efforts made by Pocadi (Digital Reading Corner) in Fostering Public Interest in Reading can be explained, namely:

1. Providing outreach to the community.

Digital reading corners foster a love of reading in various ways, one of which is by bringing communities together. Public education about the Purpose and Benefits of the Digital Reading Corner is the goal of this activity, which aims to foster interest in reading among the surrounding community. Everyone has the opportunity to learn at their own pace and in a way that suits their preferences and interests, and to take advantage of the resources they find along the way.

2. Collaboration with schools.

An activity or business carried out by several people (institutions, government, etc). To achieve common goals in the same aspect. Collaborative activities with schools carried out by the Digital Reading Corner are aimed at making students aware of the role and benefits of Pocadi and its collections Pocadi collections, facilities and infrastructure that can be used and utilized as a place of learning, knowledge and information centers. This collaboration is also carried out so that teachers should be willing to direct their students to visit the Digital Reading Corner as additional insight after what they have learned from school .

3. Provide adequate facilities.

The success of library services, the success of the library, and the achievement of library goals can all be influenced by the completeness of library facilities. Since furniture, equipment and collectibles are all in the library to ensure that operations run smoothly and visitors enjoy their time there, facilities play an important role in cultivating a love of

reading and a desire to visit the library regularly. For this reason, Pocadi's efforts to increase interest in reading are focused on providing adequate facilities so that its customers are satisfied with the services and facilities provided by Pocadi.

Obstacles Experienced by POCADI (Digital Reading Corner) in an Effort to Grow Reading Interest

While there are many things that might get in the way of completing a task, there are also many things that can help you do it successfully. To increase public interest in reading, Pocadi needs to solve a number of problems. So that Pocadi's efforts to increase public interest in reading are not in vain, the manager must make special efforts to find a way out of these obstacles.

From the results of previous interviews that the room factor is an obstacle in the activities carried out in this digital reading corner. That the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in delayed activities and the limited space that could not accommodate more visitors became one of the obstacles in Pocadi

Based on the results of interviews in the chapters that have been described previously, the obstacles to Pocadi in fostering interest in reading are: The limited space that hinders the Digital Reading Corner in growing interest in reading is that it is a very narrow room that cannot accommodate many library users when visiting. So they have to take turns, so the efforts made to overcome the existing obstacles by taking turns limiting a maximum of 15 visitors and giving 30 minutes and taking turns with other visitors.

The covid-19 pandemic, the covid-19 pandemic that entered Indonesia since the beginning of 2020, has become one of the obstacles in growing public interest in reading because of the covid-19 pandemic, many activities must be postponed because the activities gather a lot of people which can cause the virus to spread.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that there are several obstacles faced by Pocadi (Digital Reading Corner) in fostering public interest in reading in the reading corner of the Astaka pulpit, ex-MTQ Merdeka field, high cliffs, including the limited narrow space. Facilities and infrastructure aim to facilitate the public in accessing information and carrying out library activities. However, the limited space that is inadequate is an obstacle for the digital Reading Corner in growing people's interest in reading. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused limitations given to the community so that they do not gather in a place that will cause the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results and interview data that the authors obtained from POCADI (Digital Reading Corner) Tebing-High, the authors draw several conclusions.

There are several roles of POCADI (Digital Reading Corner) in growing interest in reading, namely as literacy boosters and making it easier for users to browse Ipusnas information by using the ebook application provided by the Digital Reading Corner. The role given by the Digital Reading Corner has been carried out very well, because Pocadi provides convenience to its users with its digital facilities.

Efforts made by PoOCADI (Digital Reading Corner) in an effort to foster interest in reading in the community include: school cooperation, providing adequate facilities, conducting socialization and cooperation with schools.

There are several obstacles faced by POCADI (Digital Reading Corner) in an effort to foster public interest in reading, namely the limited space that cannot accommodate many visitors and

the pandemic that was hitting Indonesia in early 2020 which caused the delay of previously planned activities, activities that were not maybe done because gathering a lot of people which can cause the spread of the virus.

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