



# ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AS A LEARNING RESOURCE

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## ABSTRACT

*This article seeks to examine the utilization of school libraries as a primary resource for acquiring educational information within educational institutions. The research employed a qualitative methodology with a descriptive approach. The informant selection technique employs purposive sampling. There were a total of 5 informants, all of whom were teachers specifically assigned to oversee the library. The research findings demonstrate that school libraries are extensively utilized by both students and teachers as a valuable resource for acquiring educational information. The library collections are utilized as a reference for student assignments at school, ensuring their effective utilization. In addition, the coordination between teachers and the library operates efficiently, evident in the collaboration between subject teachers and the library in formulating lesson plans.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education can be seen from two factors, namely: process and product quality. An education is said to be of process quality if the learning process can take place effectively and efficiently by involving all educational components, such as including teaching objectives, education and students, learning materials, teaching and learning strategies or methods, learning tools and resources as well as evaluation. These components are involved directly without highlighting just one component, but these components are empowered together. In the learning process, education is the teacher and students are the learning subject. Education is required to have a certain qualification profile in terms of knowledge, abilities, attitudes and values as well as personal characteristics, so that the process can take place effectively and efficiently (Ramdhany et al., 2016).

Something that needs to be considered in efforts to improve the quality of education is the implementation of the learning process, where education as the implementer of education plays

a very important role in the success of the learning process, in addition to other factors such as students' learning materials, motivation and supporting facilities. Therefore, the innovation and creativity of educators as the spearhead of the success or failure of education in improving the quality of human life is starting to be embarrassed, one form of which is by reforming learning methods. Life skills-oriented education aims to solve the problems they face. A library is said to be effective as a learning resource for students in this research if students utilize various kinds of advice and services available in the school library as a learning resource, all the functions of the school library, namely information function, educational function, recreation function, responsibility function. Administrative responsibilities and research functions have been achieved.

Library utilization is the process of making use of it. A library is a work unit of a certain agency or institution that manages library materials, both in the form of books and non-book materials (non-book materials) which are arranged systematically according to certain rules so that they can be used as a source of information by their users. The library referred to here is the process of using the library as a learning resource (Sari, 2017).

Every educational institution is required to provide the role of library facilities as a learning resource because the library is a medium or bridge that connects sources of information, science and technology contained in the library collection with its users. According to Ibarahim Bafalah, the existence of a school library is expected to help students and teachers in completing tasks in the teaching and learning process (Syahdan, 2021).

According to Rusmana, the ideal library condition is that the student library provides a library for carrying out learning activities, uses references to solve problems and gain new knowledge, the library provides services from the start of school hours until one or two hours after school hours so that students can have the freedom to use their time. library services, teachers use all library collections and services for the purposes of the teaching and learning process, either by themselves or by assigning students, teachers and librarians to regularly meet and discuss in the library room regarding the collections and types of services that should be provided in the library.

Librarians routinely provide information about the latest collections and services presented to teachers, special management staff carry out roles and functions for the library, and do not run out of time for teaching and learning activities together with school management, teachers and students, the library holds various activities so that it is always present is known and attracts many parties, both from within the school environment such as students, teachers and school management, as well as the outside community, including parents and local government, the library has a place for discussions with table and chair arrangements that increase students' comfort so that they can have long discussions that will Stimulating creativity, the library becomes a center for any information (from lesson schedules, wall magazines, to job vacancies) from schools, from students, and from outside parties (Nurlaelah, 2022).

The construction and management of a school library can only be carried out and produce ideal conditions through close collaboration between librarians, student teachers and school management. The development and maintenance of collections, which is a shared responsibility, can be carried out through collaboration with various parties. For this reason, a librarian is also required to always be creative, initiative and innovative, therefore, ideally librarians have special education in the field of libraries (Efrina et al., 2017).

More important than that, school management is the party that most determines whether a library in their school will continue to develop or die. School management must be aware that the library in their school is the main learning resource. If it is run with high quality support, it will

produce high quality students, which will ultimately improve the reputation of the school itself. According to research, the library can be used as a place to increase enthusiasm for learning, foster interest in reading and encourage students to use the school library as a learning resource for students at SMAN 1 Pancur Batu which has a library that has adequate and comfortable space.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODE

This research uses a descriptive research method with a qualitative approach which will provide research results regarding the condition of the school library at SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu, the use of the school library as a learning resource for students at SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu and obstacles in using the library for vocational school students. Negeri 1 Pancur Batu, the data is presented regularly by providing a narrative explanation according to the results of the data that has been collected and observed. The informant selection technique uses purposive sampling. Primary data sources come from observations and interviews. The data collection method uses observation, namely by looking at the phenomenon of using school libraries as a source of learning information; then interviews and literature study. Data analysis techniques are carried out by reducing data, presenting data and drawing conclusions related to the use of school libraries as a source of learning information.

## 3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

### **Utilization of the School Library as a Learning Resource for students**

Based on the results of an interview by the Head of the Library at SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu. The library of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu is a favorite place for students to study and do school assignments, this is because the library of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu has a library room that is comfortable, not noisy, free WiFi and PC computers are available, access to collections which is quite relevant to support students' learning process. Apart from that, the SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu library has an area of 15m<sup>2</sup> x 30m<sup>2</sup> and can accommodate up to 100 people at the same time. It is not only the students of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu who like to spend time in the library, but also teachers and education staff often discuss and work in the library.

Apart from providing an adequate collection, the library of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu also has a permanent agenda that is consistently carried out to further revive the culture of literacy in schools. Among them;

1. Reading interest competition. Activities are carried out every semester before the report distribution time. This competition is intended for students of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu who are recorded as having made the most loans and regular visits to the library of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu and have behaved well while being users of the library of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu. The competition was also filled with other activities such as giving speeches, reading poetry and singing. The activity is carried out every time towards the end of the semester as a routine school event. Winners will be given attractive prizes by the library. It is hoped that this activity will attract more interest from students at SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu to come and borrow books from the library.
2. Selection of school literacy ambassadors. This activity is carried out at the beginning of every new school year to select one person from the students of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu who is considered to actively visit the library and will then be selected based on their knowledge and communication skills. The task of the school literacy ambassador is to campaign for a movement to visit and read books in the library for one year. Apart from that, school literacy ambassadors will also be involved in other school activities both inside and outside the school.

3. Quick reading activity 15 minutes before learning starts: this activity was a proposal from the SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu library to further increase students' interest in literacy. The books that are read are books that have been borrowed from the school library in the morning, then the maple teacher will first invite students to read for 15 minutes and then retell what they read.
4. Mandatory day to visit the library: each class has a mandatory day and time to visit the library. Later, each class that has visiting hours at the library will study in the library for at least 1 hour. This is done to further increase visits to the library.
5. Storytelling corner: the library has a wall magazine created in front of the library entrance. This magazine will display the written work of students at SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu who were selected to be displayed for a week and then will be replaced with other short stories that have passed the selection. For every short story that successfully passes the selection, the library provides cash of Rp. 50,000 as appreciation
6. Idol Corner: This Idol Corner is a side in front of the library entrance with a board that says "Month Library Idol..." This notice board is designed to display photos of students at SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu who have made the most visits and loans to the library in the past 1 month time. Later the library staff will open the data in the system and record the 5 students of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu who made the most visits and loans in 1 month. So the photo will be displayed in the Idol corner for the next 1 month. This is done because everyone likes to be appreciated, and seeing oneself displayed as a form of appreciation will further increase everyone's desire to come and read books in the library.
7. Saturday Cinema. On Saturdays, the school study schedule is usually canceled, replaced by extracurricular activities. The library also continues to open services. On Saturdays the library will screen educational and inspiring cinema films so that children do not think that going to the library is only to read books and will get bored of going to the library.

Apart from these routine activities, the library is also a place to hold other school activities such as seminars, socialization and workshops, only they are tentative and not part of the library's routine agenda. The SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu library is the most important element in the SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu school in growing students' literacy levels and being a driving force for student activity in increasing creativity in all fields.

### **Optimizing School Library Utilization**

Organizing a library as a learning resource is a necessity and very important in education. It is impossible for an educational institution to be run well if the teachers and students are not supported by the learning resources needed to carry out teaching and learning activities. In general, the library is a center for learning activities because the activity that is most visible on every student visit is studying, both learning that is directly related to the subjects given in class, as well as other books that have nothing to do with the subjects. However, if we look at it from the point of view of students visiting the library, there are those whose aim is to study, there are those whose aim is to practice browsing library books, there are those whose aim is to obtain information.

Libraries as institutions that manage information sources should occupy a key position in the existing education and training process, both in the school environment, outside of school, the world of work, and society in general. However, the reality is still far from expectations. Libraries have not really become popular in society. This happens because of low interest in reading and lack of awareness that learning requires finding information yourself.

The existence of the library as a supporting facility in an institution or school has received a lot of attention, because it is considered by many parties that it still needs attention. This can be seen from the low development of the library itself and the low interest of users to visit and use the library as a place to get the information they need.

A system certainly requires effort so that the system can be optimized as well as possible. Likewise, libraries also require efforts to optimize their function and role in the world of education. Some efforts that can be done include:

- a) Professional library management both in terms of staff and supporting facilities and infrastructure.
- b) optimal use of library management
- c) Providing appropriate materials and in accordance with ongoing scientific developments.
- d) Screening of existing library materials so that only quality materials are available
- e) Creating a conducive and attractive library atmosphere for students, both in terms of the arrangement of library equipment and ease of service.
- f) Utilization of science and technology in library services, both in terms of electronic material sources and electronic services

#### **Factors Inhibiting and Support the Use of School Libraries in Learning.**

Factors inhibiting the use of school libraries are the absence of library staff, the absence of a school library structure, taking up a lot of learning time, and the lack of learning resources in the school library. The school library at SMKN 1 Pancur Batu is still experiencing various obstacles so it is not running properly. There are two aspects that stem from these obstacles, including technical aspects such as personnel, funds, and facilities and infrastructure. Structural aspects such as the existence of a school library receive less attention from the school. A good library must be designed and managed in a modern way using information and communication technology. Good management in library management will have an impact on service quality. In addition, the library as a learning resource can be managed in an integrated manner to support the achievement of student learning goals.

Supporting factors for using the school library as a learning resource at SMKN 1 Pancur Batu include facilities and infrastructure, teachers' enthusiasm for learning, students' enthusiasm and enthusiasm for learning by using the school library, good arrangement of books, and lesson plans that make it easier for teachers to use the library. school as a learning resource.

Several supporting factors in optimizing the function of the school library as a learning resource include the following:

- a) **Library Collection;** One of the supporting factors is the library collection in elementary schools, there are many book collections that support learning activities, especially textbooks or package books and other reading books.
- b) **Library;** The library must have a separate room, tables and so on to support the library's activities
- c) **Library Service System;** School library services are prioritized to always have someone to look after and serve students who visit to read in the library room or borrow books, return books and fine books for those who violate or schedule regularly.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the author's observations and extensive interviews, it can be inferred that the library of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu possesses sufficient collections, facilities, and infrastructure to serve as a valuable learning resource for its students. This can be inferred from the visit and borrowing

data that the author has provided. The library's consistent implementation of the latest work programs is a contributing factor to the increase in library visits. The work programs encompass various activities, namely: (1) Reading interest competition, (2) Appointment of school literacy ambassadors, (3) Storytelling corner, (4) Idol corner, (5) Saturday cinema, (6) Pre-class quick reading, and (7) Private tutoring services. Both students and faculty members of SMK Negeri 1 Pancur Batu find the library to be a welcoming and conducive environment for work and discussions, thanks to the availability of wifi and the comfortable rooms.

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