EFFORTS TO INCREASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' INTEREST IN READING USING THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE'S DIGITAL LIBRARY

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Abstract

Reading interest is an important aspect of the literacy development of primary school students. This article examines efforts to increase students' interest in reading using Kemdikbud's Digital Library as a key resource. Kemdikbud's Digital Library provides access to a wide collection of digital books that can be accessed for free by Indonesians, including primary school students. Through an introduction to the concept of digital books and the promotion of interesting books, teachers can enrich students' reading experience by selecting stories that match their interests and comprehension levels. In addition, class read-aloud, story discussions, and creative book-based projects provide opportunities for students to be actively involved in the learning process. By involving parents and organizing literacy campaigns in schools, students' reading interests can be improved as a whole. The results of implementing this strategy show a significant increase in students' interest and reading ability and encourage the use of technology in education as a key enabler in achieving better literacy goals among primary school students.

Keywords: Reading Interests, Ministry of Education and Culture Digital Library, Digital Books

INTRODUCTION

Interest in reading is the main foundation for developing elementary school students' literacy. Strong literacy not only provides access to knowledge and information but also builds critical thinking, imaginative, and analytical skills in children. In today's digital era, where technology is developing rapidly, the approach to increasing students' interest in reading has also transformed. One innovative effort is to utilize the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library as the main resource in expanding access to reading materials.

The Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library offers a rich collection of digital books containing various types of literature, which can be accessed for free by the Indonesian people, including elementary school students. This platform not only provides easy access to quality books but also facilitates the use of technology in education more widely. This is in line with the vision to create a learning environment that stimulates student

interest and creativity. The Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library also provides access to various free digital book collections, which cover various genres and topics suitable for various age levels, including elementary school students. With technology continuing to develop, the approach to increasing reading interest has also changed. Teachers as the main movers in education have a crucial role in utilizing these resources to increase students' interest in reading.

This article aims to examine various strategies that teachers can implement in using the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library to increase elementary school students' interest in reading. Through the introduction of the concept of digital books, promotion of interesting books, joint reading activities in class, story discussions, and book-based creative projects, it is hoped that this can make a positive contribution to increasing student literacy. By involving parents and organizing literacy campaigns in schools, this article also explores how collaboration between schools and families can strengthen students' overall interest in reading.

Apart from that, involving parents in supporting literacy activities and organizing literacy campaigns in schools is also an integral part of this effort. Thus, this article not only explores how the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library can be an effective tool in increasing student literacy but also how the integration of technology in education can have a broad positive impact in achieving the goals of a more inclusive and progressive national education.

Thus, the implementation of this strategy not only aims to increase students' interest in reading, but also to build a solid literacy foundation, preparing Indonesia's young generation to face challenges and opportunities in a future that is increasingly complex and rapidly changing.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study from this research uses a qualitative approach to explore and understand the experiences and perceptions of students and teachers in implementing the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library to increase reading interest in grade 4 elementary school students at SDN Kiduldalem 2 Malang. A qualitative approach was chosen to gain an in-depth understanding of how the intervention influences students' reading interest from

various perspectives. This study adopts a case study research approach. The main focus of this case study is on how the Kemdikbud Digital Library is used in a real context in class 4 at SDN Kiduldalem 2 Malang to increase students' interest in reading. This approach allows researchers to examine and analyze in depth the interactions and dynamics that occur during the implementation process.
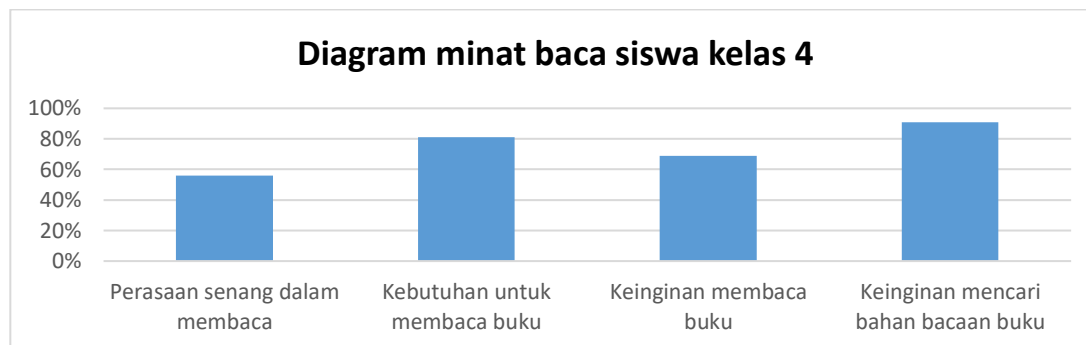
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

This study succeeded in showing that the use of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library as the main resource in increasing students' interest in reading at SDN Kiduldalem 2 Malang, grade 4 has a significant positive impact. Based on data collected from various data collection methods, the following are the main results of this research:

- Increased Student Reading Interest: After the implementation of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library, a significant increase in student reading interest was seen. Questionnaire data shows that the majority of students consider reading activities using this digital platform to be more interesting and enjoyable compared to traditional methods.

- Use of Technology in Education: This study confirms that the integration of digital technology, such as the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library, can be an effective tool in improving literacy learning. Teachers report that easy access to digital books has enriched students' learning experiences and helped motivate them to read more.

- Shared Reading and Discussion: Shared reading activities in class, story discussions, and book-based creative projects supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library provide opportunities for students to interact more intensely with literacy texts. This not only improves their understanding of the reading content but also helps them develop critical and analytical thinking skills.

- Parental Involvement and School Support: Involving parents in supporting literacy activities and organizing literacy campaigns in schools has proven to be an important supporting factor in the success of the program. Open communication between schools and parents provides the additional support needed to strengthen students' interest in

reading outside the school environment.

The reading interest of grade 4 students at SDN Kiduldalem 2 Malang can be described as follows:

Diagram minat baca siswa kelas 4

DISCUSSION

The use of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library in this research shows that technology can be a very effective means of motivating students to read. The various activities carried out, such as shared reading, story discussions, and creative book-based projects, provide students with fun and meaningful experiences in their literacy.

The approach used in this research, namely a combination of active learning through technology and student participation in various literacy activities, has proven successful in increasing students' interest in reading. This is by previous research findings which show that direct interaction with relevant and interesting texts can significantly stimulate students' interest in reading.

However, this research also identified several challenges that need to be addressed. One of them is technology accessibility which is still uneven in some regions, which can affect the overall implementation of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library. Apart from that, this approach also highlights the importance of the teacher's role in accompanying and directing students in using technology effectively in learning.

Overall, the results of this research provide evidence that the Kemdikbud Digital Library is not only a tool for increasing student literacy, but is also an innovation in education that can have a significant positive impact in increasing reading interest and literacy skills in grade 4 elementary school students. Implementation and development It is hoped that these successful strategies will further help improve the standard of literacy education in Indonesia

as a whole.

CONCLUSION

This research highlights the importance of using the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library as an effective tool in increasing the reading interest of grade 4 students at SDN Kiduldalem 2 Malang. Based on the results and discussion that have been presented, several main conclusions can be drawn:

- Positive Influence of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library: The use of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library has been proven to have a significant positive impact in increasing students' interest in reading. The various literacy activities supported by this platform, such as shared reading, story discussions, and creative book-based projects, have succeeded in attracting students' interest and increasing their involvement in reading.

- The Role of Technology in Literacy Education: The integration of digital technology, especially through the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library, not only expands access to a variety of reading materials but also helps create a more interesting and relevant learning environment for students. This is by the times when technology has become an integral part of everyday life.

- Support from Parents and Schools: The success of this program is also supported by the active participation of parents in supporting literacy activities and good collaboration between schools and families. This collaboration not only strengthens students' interest in reading in the classroom but also outside the school environment.

- Challenges and Recommendations: Despite its success, this research also identified several challenges, such as uneven technology accessibility across regions. Recommendations for future research include increasing technological infrastructure support in schools and further involvement of various related parties to support the sustainability of literacy programs using technology.

Thus, the implementation of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Digital Library in the literacy education of grade 4 students at SDN Kiduldalem 2 Malang shows great potential in increasing their interest in reading and literacy skills. This research contributes to strengthening empirical evidence about the effectiveness of technology in literacy education

while providing a foundation for the development of broader strategies and policies for improving literacy education in Indonesia.

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