

IMPLEMENTATION OF LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN INCREASING THE INTEREST IN LEARNING OF GRADE VII STUDENTS AT MTS NURUL FALAH KEC. GUNUNGSINDUR

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Abstract: *Education is the process of strengthening the attitudes and behaviors of a person or group in an effort to mature humans in learning and training efforts. Yet some high schools continue to struggle to generate interest in reading and arithmetic, particularly in Grade VII. Reading, one of the literacy activities, and the key to educational progress and the gateway to diverse sciences. There is a need for learning innovation in the application of programs to train and improve the literacy and numeracy skills of students. Therefore, efforts should be made to promote reading and numeracy as daily routine activities before learning learners do literacy for 15 minutes. The goal is to improve students' reading skills by instilling a culture of reading and numeracy skills in the classroom. Several studies have shown that reading and numeracy skills have a significant impact on learners' critical thinking and problem solving. In this study researchers used a mixed research method, where researchers collect quantitative and qualitative data simultaneously (simultaneously), each data is analyzed. In the next step, the analysis results of each information received were compared and decided to read and count learners showed the growth of literacy and numeracy skills. The improvement of literacy and numeracy application skills can be seen from the results of successive questionnaires. Thus, this program is to achieve its goal of improving students' reading and numeracy skills.*

Keywords: *literacy, numeracy, learners' learning interests.*

Introduction

Education can simply be interpreted as human efforts to build personality in accordance with values in society. Education is a human effort to become better in terms of knowledge and practice. Human beings who have a good education, illuminate themselves and others and are able to distinguish good and bad deeds. Education is the process of strengthening the attitudes and behaviors of a person or group in an effort to mature humans in learning and training efforts. Based on Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education system, it functions to develop the ability and shape the character and civilization of the nation with dignity and in order to educate the nation's life, aiming at developing the potential of students to become human beings of faith and fear of God Almighty, have noble deeds, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens. (Law of the Republic of Indonesia, 2015: 17).

Since 1995 until now, the mass media has always published news about people's interest in reading, especially children's interest in reading. Electronic media such as television also broadcast public service advertisements to increase interest in reading, (Nazillah & Fajar, 2023). Reading, one of the literacy activities, is the key to educational progress and the gateway to various sciences. The success of an education is not measured by the number of students who get good grades in a lesson, but from the number of students who like to read in class will get the best grades in the subjects they teach. Literacy culture, including reading habits, has not yet become a culture in Indonesian society. Literacy and numeracy skills are taught using an interdisciplinary learning approach, learning in other fields of study can be enriched and help students expand their understanding of literacy and numeracy. Teachers should guide learners to learn in a way that is not boring and challenging. The stimulus chosen must be context-appropriate, interesting, and appropriate to arouse curiosity. This is very important, especially for seniors. Therefore, to understand a subject requires good reading, writing, and numeracy skills. Numeracy skills are different from math skills and have different applications in everyday life. In the current era of technological development, computing capabilities are very important to improve the quality of a country's human resources.(Nazillah & Dawn, 2023)

But in reality students are a whole and rounded whole. Reading, one of the functions of literacy, is the key to educational progress and the gateway to diverse knowledge. Academic success is not measured by how many students score well in class, but by how much students willing to read in class get the best grades in those subjects. Literacy culture, including reading habits, has not yet become a culture in Indonesian society. Indonesia is one of the countries that has succeeded in eradicating illiteracy. Based on data compiled by the Center for Education and Culture Statistics and Forecast Data from the Government Statistics Center of the Ministry of Education and Culture (2018), the literacy rate of the Indonesian population has reached 97.932%, which means there are only around 2068 people. . The remaining Indonesian population. % (3.474 million people) are still illiterate. But unfortunately you have the ability to read but are lazy to read. According to a March 2016 Central Connecticut State University survey of countries with the highest levels of education in the world, reading preferences in Indonesia.

In today's context, literacy encompasses more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. However, literacy and numeracy are necessary skills for life that encompass many aspects of a person's life. One of the indicators used to measure developed countries is to consider the literacy rate and standard of living of their people. In order for the country to be on par with developed countries, it is necessary to make serious efforts in literacy and numeracy of the

country to support the realization of the collective intelligence of the Indonesian people. In addition, in global competition, especially in the field of education, literacy and numeracy are considered important to be mastered by all stakeholders, including internal stakeholders such as teachers, students, parents, and the school ecosystem. (Fajaria, 2023) Human numeracy is not only about addition, subtraction, division and multiplication, but also about managing and solving measurements, spatial picture, data and numbers in a variety of contexts. Calculating a monthly shopping budget, even planning a vacation, requires math skills. In addition, the construction of projects, buildings and bridges in the work requires these skills. Because of the importance of counting, it is important to teach children to think critically, objectively, logically and carefully from an early age.

Based on observations made, it is known that students are classified as having low interest in reading and arithmetic, difficulty understanding the material because it requires encouragement to read writing stronger and consistently able to read, write and listen fluently. As a result of the lack of interest in reading and the development of easily accessible technology makes less focus in learning. Conversely, the teacher factor also has a great influence because of the lack of initiative in learning so that there is less interest and no active role from the teacher, students are still passive, this happens because of lack of interaction. So that peseta didik seems indifferent to the learning process. Students need strong motivation from the people around them, both from inside and outside, so that it will increase their interest in learning.

Research Methodology

Research is a scientific way to obtain data with specific purposes and uses. In this study using *the mix method method*. Mix method research method is a research *method* that combines two methods, between qualitative research and quantitative methods. Mixed research is a mixture of methods as well as approaches related to these methods. For example, by combining observation techniques and interviews (qualitative data) with traditional survey methods (quantitative data). (Seto Mulyadi et al, 2019)

Results And Discussion

Understanding Literacy

Literacy is an individual's ability to understand, evaluate, and use information obtained from various sources. Supported by (Dwi Noerbella, 2022) that literacy and numeracy are basic skills needed by students to understand and recognize reading in various contexts. Literacy includes the ability to read, write, and count, as well as the ability to think critically and creatively. According to research conducted by UNESCO in 2019, there are 773 million adults worldwide who do not have adequate reading and writing skills. This issue is of global concern because literacy is the foundation of personal and social development. Access to quality education is an important factor influencing literacy rates. Literacy culture will influence children's success both at school and in the outside world. (Handayani, 2020).

The ability to think critically is a very important skill and works effectively in all areas of life. Therefore, critical thinking skills are very important and must be instilled in schools, at home, and in the community from an early age. Active thinking is indispensable to achieve optimal learning outcomes. This means that optimal learning requires learners to think critically. Therefore, critical thinking is very important in learning. (Ekadiansyah, 2020) Good education helps people develop the literacy skills necessary to understand and participate in daily life. In addition, information and communication technology plays an important role in improving

literacy. In today's digital era, people need to understand and utilize technology to obtain information and participate in social and economic life.

Some strategies that can be used to improve literacy are:

1. Improve access and quality of education
2. Develop interesting and relevant reading materials Encourage participation in reading and writing activities
3. Increase access to information and communication technology
4. Increase awareness of the importance of literacy for individual and community development.

In an increasingly complex and fast-paced era like today, literacy skills are becoming increasingly important. Therefore, efforts are needed to improve literacy both at the individual level and society as a whole

Types of Literacy

The Director General of Education (2016: 8) explained that literacy is more than just reading and writing, but includes thinking skills using knowledge sources in print, visual, digital, and auditory forms. In the 21st century, this ability is referred to as information literacy. According to Ferguson (2003: 6) Information literacy is the ability to know when you need information and the ability to identify, search, evaluate, and effectively use that information to solve problems.

Numeration

Numeracy is an individual's ability to understand and use mathematical concepts in everyday life. Numeracy includes the ability to understand numbers, count, solve problems, and use logical thinking. According to some studies, the rate of calculation varies from country to country. For example, a 2015 study found that 22 percent of American students lacked adequate math skills. People with good math skills will more easily understand financial information, make smart buying or investment decisions, and avoid financial fraud.

Some strategies that can be used to improve numeracy skills are:

- a. Quality training and education for individuals from an early age to improve numeracy skills.
- b. Develop interesting and relevant mathematics learning materials to help individuals understand mathematical concepts more easily.
- c. Provide Encourage the use of technology and media in mathematics learning to help strengthen individual numeracy skills.
- d. Provide opportunities for individuals to practice numeracy skills in everyday life, for example in managing money or calculating payments when shopping. (Shabrina, 2022)

In today's digital era, numeracy skills are essential to participate in social and economic life. Therefore, efforts are needed to improve numeracy skills both at the individual level and society as a whole.

Understanding Interest

Interest is defined as liking, liking, or enjoying something. According to Sardiman, interest is a state that occurs when a person perceives temporary characteristics or meanings in a situation related to his own wants or needs. Therefore, everything a person sees will certainly arouse his interest if what he sees is related to his own interests. This shows that interest is a person's mental tendency towards an object, usually accompanied by a feeling of pleasure because they feel attracted to the object. According to Bernardo, interest does not arise suddenly or

spontaneously, but arises because of participation, experience, learning or work habits. But clearly, interests are always related to needs and wants. According to Sadirman, a person's interest is strongly influenced by internal factors such as focus of attention, desires, motivation and needs. During this time interest in learning can affect the learning outcomes of children or students in certain fields.

Creating interest in something helps students see the relationship between the material they are learning and themselves. This process means showing students how certain knowledge or skills affect them, meet their goals, satisfy their needs. However, if students understand that learning is a means to achieve some goals that are important to them, and see that learning outcomes bring progress to them, they are more likely to be interested and motivated to learn. According to Hilgard, he gave the formulation of interest: "interest is a persistent tendency to pay attention to an activity or content and enjoy it". Attention is temporary (does not last long) and may not be accompanied by feelings of pleasure. Happiness is always followed by a feeling of joy and from there comes satisfaction. Based on some explanations of interest above, it can be concluded that interest arises in a person based on experience or how to do something that causes a sense of pleasure. That attraction won't last forever unless one pays attention to something.

Factors affecting reading interest

- a. Physiological factors include physical health, neurological aspects and gender. Fatigue is an unfavorable condition for children's learning, especially when reading. In addition, a child's learning, particularly reading, is hampered by neurological limitations (such as various types of brain damage), hearing and vision impairments.
- b. Spiritual factors; In general, children's intelligence does not completely affect a child's success in reading, but several studies, one of which was conducted by Ehanski (1963), showed that there is a positive (but low) correlation between IQ and average. Correct
- c. Environmental factors; Environmental factors also affect a child's reading development. Environmental factors include the child's background and experience at home. In this case, the child will not be interested in something, let alone reading, if he has never experienced it. In addition, there are family economic factors

Understanding Learning

Learning is a complex internal process, where participants in this internal process cover all mental domains which include cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. Learning a word or a concept is not new, it is very well known, but when talking about learning, everyone has different understandings and definitions, although in practice each of us has really understood what is meant by learning. Therefore, to avoid these differences in understanding, here we present the different definitions of learning according to experts.

According to R. Gagne, learning can be defined as a process by which an organism changes its behavior as a result of experience. Teaching and learning are two concepts that cannot be separated from each other. Where the interaction between teachers and students, as well as students with students during learning. (Nidawati, 2013: 13)

According to Muhibbin Shah, learning is a whole stage of change in all relatively sedentary individual behavior as a result of experience and interaction with the environment involving

cognitive processes. Learning is a mental activity that takes place in active interaction with the environment, which results in a number of changes in knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudinal values. (Ahmad Santosa, 2019: 1) Learning is the process of seeing, creating, observing, solving problems or problems, listening and training

Learning according to Skinner, is a process of adaptation (behavioral adjustment) that takes place progressively. (Muhibbin Shah, 2013: 64) According to Vernon S. Gerlach and Donal P. Ely suggest that learning is a change in behavior, while behavior is an observable action. (According to Purwanto, 1991: 84-85), how many important elements characterize the learning done by students, namely:

1. Learning is a change in behavior
2. Learning is a change that occurs through practice or experience.
3. To be called learning, the change must be relatively steady.
4. Behavior that changes due to learning involves various aspects of personality. (Kompri, 2015: 218)
- 5.

Thus learning is a process carried out by individuals to expand and increase the expected skills, knowledge, attitudes, dispositions, abilities and skills. In this case, what is meant by learning means an effort to change behavior.

1. To gain knowledge
2. Instill concepts and skills
3. Attitude formation

Thus, learning is essentially the desire to acquire knowledge, skills, and the cultivation of mental attitudes or values. The three learning outcomes in teaching above are three things that are planned and separated programmatically, but in reality students are a whole and rounded whole.

Conclusion

Implementasi literasi dan numerasi dalam pendidikan memiliki dampak positif dalam meningkatkan minat belajar peserta didik. Literasi, yang melibatkan kemampuan membaca, menulis, dan memahami informasi, memberikan landasan yang kuat bagi peserta didik untuk mengakses pengetahuan secara efektif. Sementara itu, numerasi, yang melibatkan kemampuan untuk memahami dan menggunakan konsep matematika, memberikan dasar yang penting dalam pemecahan masalah dan pemikiran kritis. Dengan memasukkan literasi dan numerasi ke dalam kurikulum, sekolah dapat membantu peserta didik mengembangkan keterampilan yang esensial untuk sukses dalam kehidupan sehari-hari dan karir. Peserta didik yang memiliki kemampuan literasi yang baik dapat lebih mudah memahami petunjuk, mengekspresikan ide-ide mereka, dan berpartisipasi secara aktif dalam proses pembelajaran. Kemampuan numerasi yang baik juga memungkinkan peserta didik untuk memecahkan masalah matematis, mengembangkan pemikiran logis, dan membuat keputusan berdasarkan data. Dengan meningkatkan literasi dan numerasi, peserta didik dapat merasa lebih percaya diri dalam menghadapi tugas-tugas akademis, yang pada gilirannya dapat meningkatkan minat belajar mereka. Selain itu, literasi dan numerasi juga membantu peserta didik mengembangkan keterampilan berpikir kritis, memecahkan masalah, dan berkomunikasi secara efektif, yang semuanya merupakan keterampilan yang sangat dibutuhkan dalam dunia nyata. Melalui integrasi literasi dan numerasi dalam proses pembelajaran, pendidikan menjadi lebih holistik dan relevan. Peserta didik dapat melihat keterampilan ini sebagai alat yang berguna dalam kehidupan sehari-hari mereka, bukan hanya sebagai pengetahuan teoritis yang harus dipelajari.

Dengan demikian, implementasi literasi dan numerasi dapat membentuk peserta didik yang lebih berdaya, mandiri, dan berpikir kritis, yang pada akhirnya akan meningkatkan minat mereka dalam belajar.

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