



The Influence of Mobile Library Services on Students' Reading Interest at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani, Palu

Suryanto¹, Steviani Batti²

1. Faculty of Law, Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Terbuka

2. Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Terbuka

*Corresponding author e-mail : shuryaanto23@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the influence of mobile library services on students' reading interest at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani, Palu. The low reading interest among elementary school students in Palu is influenced by several factors, one of which is limited access to reading materials that are appropriate for their age. Mobile libraries are present as a solution by bringing book collections directly to schools, providing easy access, and encouraging students' reading interest. This study uses a descriptive quantitative approach with a survey method by distributing questionnaires to students after a mobile library visit. The results of the study show that mobile library services have a positive effect on increasing students' reading interest, especially in terms of book variety, interaction during visits, and the frequency of mobile libraries coming to schools. In addition, supporting factors such as support from teachers and parents also play a role in increasing students' reading interest. This study is expected to provide recommendations to schools and the government to optimize the mobile library program, as well as improve literacy and reading culture among students from an early age.

Keywords: Mobile Library, Reading Interest, Literacy, Elementary School

1. Introduction

Reading interest is one of the important indicators in the development of superior and competitive human resources. The higher the reading interest of a community, the greater their potential in absorbing information, expanding insights, and improving critical and creative thinking skills. At the elementary school level, reading interest plays a fundamental role as the initial foundation for the formation of learning habits and love for science from an early age. However, the reality on the ground shows that the level of interest in reading among children in Indonesia, especially in areas such as Palu City, is still relatively low.

The low interest in reading in elementary school students cannot be separated from various interrelated factors. Some of them are limited access to reading materials that are interesting and appropriate for children's age, the lack of library availability in the school environment, and the lack of support and habituation from the family environment and the surrounding community. In addition, the rapid development of digital technology has also changed information consumption patterns among children, who are more interested in visual content and instant entertainment than traditional reading of books. This results in reading activities becoming less in demand and considered boring by most students.

In dealing with these problems, innovation and a more proactive library service strategy are needed, one of which is through the mobile library program. Mobile libraries are a form of



mobile information service that aims to reach the public, especially school children, in areas that are difficult to reach by public libraries. This service not only brings book collections directly to schools, but also serves as a means of education, motivation, and recreation that can foster students' interest in reading in a more fun and interactive way.

In Palu City, the Archives and Library Service has run a mobile library program targeting various schools, one of which is SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani. This school is a public elementary school located in an area with limited access to literacy facilities. Through a tour of the library, students are introduced to a diverse collection of readings, including picture story books, educational comics, and popular knowledge books that are appropriate for their age. In addition, library staff also interact directly with students through activities such as reading together which can indirectly form positive reading habits.

This study aims to analyze in depth how the influence of mobile library services on students' reading interest at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani. The focus of the study was directed on aspects such as the variety of reading materials provided, the interaction between students and library staff, and the frequency of mobile library visits. In addition, this study also considers the supporting role of teachers and parents in strengthening the impact of these services on increasing students' reading interest.

With a descriptive quantitative approach and survey method through the distribution of questionnaires, this study is expected to provide a real picture of the effectiveness of mobile library services. The results of this research are also expected to be able to be input for schools, local governments, and library managers in formulating strategies to improve student literacy through a more inclusive and needs-based approach to library services.

Through this research, the author wants to emphasize the importance of the role of mobile libraries as agents of change in shaping reading culture among elementary school students. Not only a provider of reading materials, mobile libraries must also be seen as a means of learning that is dynamic, adaptive, and reaches all levels of society without exception. Thus, literacy development can start from small but meaningful steps, one of which is by bringing books directly into the hands of children in need.

2. Research Method

This study uses a descriptive quantitative method with data collection techniques in the form of questionnaires and observations. The descriptive quantitative approach was chosen because it is appropriate to systematically describe and explain the relationship between mobile library services and students' reading interests, based on numerical data collected directly from respondents. The purpose of this approach is to find out the extent to which the services provided by mobile libraries are able to affect the increase in students' interest in reading in real terms, based on the results of the survey conducted.

The population in this study is several samples of 5th and 6th grade students at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani, because at this level students are considered to have relatively developed reading skills



and are able to provide assessments of the literacy activities they participate in. In addition, students in grades 5 and 6 are also directly targeted by the mobile library service program from the Palu City Archives and Library Service. Therefore, the information provided by this group is considered representative to illustrate the impact of such services.

Sampling was carried out using *convenience sampling* techniques, which are sampling techniques based on the ease of access and availability of respondents at the time of the research. In this study, samples were taken from 5th and 6th grade students who were involved in mobile library visits and were willing to fill out questionnaires. This approach was chosen to facilitate the data collection process and obtain relevant information from respondents that are easily accessible.

The research instruments employed several main indicators, including the frequency of students' reading before and after the arrival of the mobile library service, the types of books preferred by students such as picture storybooks, comics, or popular literature, and students' motivation to read after directly interacting with the mobile library. In addition, the questionnaire contained statements designed to explore students' responses to the service atmosphere, the attitudes of library staff, the diversity of collections, and the support provided by teachers and parents for reading activities both at school and at home.

To support data collection, direct observations were conducted during mobile library visits to examine how students interacted with library staff, the overall atmosphere of reading activities, and students' spontaneous responses to the presence of the service. These observation notes were used as qualitative data to strengthen and complement the interpretation of the questionnaire results.

The data collected from the questionnaire and observations were then analyzed using descriptive statistics, such as percentages and averages, to illustrate the trends of the emerging data. Descriptive statistics were chosen because they are in accordance with the purpose of research that wants to describe phenomena clearly and measurably without making inferential generalizations.

Through this method, it is hoped that a complete understanding of how mobile library services can influence the increase in students' reading interest, both in terms of quantity (reading frequency) and quality (type of reading and motivation). The analysis of these results will also be the basis for providing the right recommendations to schools, local governments, and library managers to develop a more effective and sustainable mobile library service program.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Analysis of Research Results

This study aims to determine the influence of mobile library services on students' reading interest at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani Palu. Based on questionnaire data, important information was obtained showing how the service contributes to improving student literacy. A total of 50 fifth- and sixth-grade students participated as respondents during a mobile library visit conducted by the



Palu City Archives and Library Service, and the results of the questionnaire are summarized in the following table.

Table 1. Results of the Perception Questionnaire on Mobile Libraries

Question	Most Answers	Frequency	Presentase
Have used mobile library services	Yes	48	95%
Frequency of mobile library visits to schools	3–5 times a year	30	60%
Service usefulness level	Very helpful	36	72,5%
The effect of services on reading interest	Yes, greatly improved	33	65%
Most searched types of books	Storybook	28	55%
Facility assessment and book collection	No, it needs to be improved	26	52,5%
Major obstacles in service	Less frequent visits	23	45%
Whether or not there is enough reading time	No, it should be longer	34	67,5%
Assistance of officers in selecting books	Quite helpful	25	50%
Additional activities besides book borrowing	None	31	62,5%

3.2. Interpretation of Each Indicator

The accessibility of mobile library services shows that most students are familiar with and actively use the service, with 95% of respondents indicating awareness and participation, and 60% reporting visit frequencies of three to five times per year. This suggests that the service has successfully reached its target users, although there is still potential to improve the intensity and consistency of visits in order to maximize its impact on students.

In terms of usefulness and impact on reading interest, 72.5% of students rated the service as very useful, while 65% stated that their interest in reading increased significantly. These findings demonstrate that mobile library services play a meaningful role in stimulating students' reading motivation and supporting literacy development in the school environment.

Regarding reading preferences, storybooks and comics emerged as the most favored materials due to their visual appeal and simple language. This result is consistent with Tarigan's (2008) theory that reading interest becomes stronger when reading materials are aligned with the



reader's age and personal interests, indicating the importance of providing age-appropriate and engaging collections.

Despite positive responses, several constraints remain, including limited book collections (52.5%) and infrequent visits (45%), which highlight the need for improvement in collection quantity and service scheduling. Additionally, although half of the respondents considered the staff helpful in selecting books, many students felt that there were insufficient supporting activities such as storytelling and literacy games (62.5%), even though such activities have been proven effective in fostering reading interest (Astuti, 2019).

3.3. Instrument Validity and Reliability Test

The validity test was conducted to determine the extent to which the questionnaire items were able to accurately measure the intended indicators, using the Corrected Item–Total Correlation method by comparing the calculated *r* values with the *r* table value ($n = 50, \alpha = 0.05, r \text{ table} = 0.278$), and the results of this validity test are presented in the following table.

Table 2. Validity Test Results

Item	r count	R table	Results
Q1	0.482	0.278	Valid
Q2	0.391	0.278	Valid
Q3	0.612	0.278	Valid
Q4	0.543	0.278	Valid
Q5	0.501	0.278	Valid
Q6	0.437	0.278	Valid
Q7	0.569	0.278	Valid
Q8	0.418	0.278	Valid
Q9	0.524	0.278	Valid
Q10	0.488	0.278	Valid

Based on the table above, all questionnaire items (Q1–Q10) show calculated *r* values greater than the *r* table value of 0.278, indicating that each item is valid and can be reliably used to measure the influence of mobile library services on the reading interest of students at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani Palu.

The reliability test was conducted to determine the consistency of the research instrument when used repeatedly, using the Cronbach's Alpha method, and the results of this reliability test are presented in the following table.

Table 3. Reliability Results

Variabel	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
The Impact of Reading Interest Services	0.824	10



The results of this study are consistent with previous research by Turmuzi (2020) and Pratiwi (2020), which found that mobile library services play a strategic role in increasing students' reading interest, particularly through easy access to books and engaging literacy activities. These similarities indicate that mobile libraries remain an effective alternative for promoting reading culture, especially in schools with limited library facilities.

This study also supports Astuti's (2019) theory that literacy activities should be delivered in an interactive, enjoyable, and emotionally engaging manner. However, the findings reveal that supporting activities in the mobile library service at SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani are still minimal, suggesting that the affective and interactive dimensions of literacy development have not been fully optimized.

Overall, the results highlight that mobile library services have strong potential as a medium for building a school literacy culture, particularly in schools without permanent libraries. Nevertheless, their effectiveness depends on the diversity and quality of book collections, the consistency of visit schedules, the involvement of library staff, teachers, and parents, as well as the availability of enjoyable supporting activities. Therefore, mobile libraries should not merely function as book providers, but also as learning agents and motivators of student literacy.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that mobile library services have a positive influence on increasing the reading interest of students of SDN Inpres 02 Lasoani Palu City. The majority of students show high enthusiasm for mobile library visits, mainly because of the interesting diversity of books, the pleasant atmosphere of the visit, and the direct interaction with the staff. This service has been proven to not only provide access to reading materials, but also encourage more active and enjoyable changes in reading behavior among students.

However, there are still several obstacles that need to be considered, such as the limited frequency of visits, the lack of variety of collections, and the lack of additional interactive literacy activities. Therefore, mobile library services need to be improved in terms of quantity and quality so that their impact on student literacy is more optimal.

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