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The Role of School Libraries in the Teaching and Learning Process at Senior High Schools

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Article Info	ABSTRACT

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The SMAN 1 Puncu school library is one of the high school libraries in Kediri Regency which has adequate school infrastructure. This research aims 1. What is the role of the school library in supporting the learning process of students. 2. What factors influence the role of libraries and support students' learning processes. The research that will be used by researchers in this research is descriptive research. With conclusions 1. The role of the school library in supporting the learning process of students at SMAN 1 Puncu, namely that the existence of a library in the school plays an important role for students and can support the social studies learning process. Not only for students and teachers but also for all students at SMAN 1 Puncu along with other teachers. The existence of a library in the school environment can provide positive value to its users, if students make the best use of the library. And the existence of a library at school can help in completing school assignments. 2. Factors that influence the role of the school library in supporting the learning process of students at SMAN 1 Puncu, namely the interest of students and also the existence of inadequate facilities and efforts that need to be made by the principal and teachers to make them more effective and efficient.

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1. Introduction

Science and technology continue to develop and advance in line with the progression of time and the evolution of human thinking. As a developing country, Indonesia will not be able to progress without improving the quality of its human resources. The quality of life of a

nation can be enhanced when it is supported by a well-established educational system. A solid educational system enables individuals to think critically, creatively, and productively.

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia states that the nation aspires to build an intelligent society. To achieve this goal, a learning society must be established. A learning society can be formed when its members possess strong listening skills and a high interest in reading. When reading becomes a habitual and culturally embedded practice within society, books clearly become inseparable from daily life and constitute a fundamental necessity that must be fulfilled.

In the field of education, books have proven to be effective and efficient as educational tools as well as means of communication. In this context, libraries and library services must be developed as essential facilities to support the national goal of educating the nation. Libraries are a vital component that exerts a significant influence on the quality of education. The presence of libraries in schools plays a very important role in improving educational quality. Libraries function as learning resource centers that provide a wide range of information to support the learning process. School libraries are libraries located within educational institutions such as schools, colleges, academies, and other higher education institutions, and they essentially serve as an integral part of the educational institution itself (Shaleh, 2009). According to the Indonesian National Standard (SNI 7330: 2009), the primary purpose of school libraries is to provide services that meet the information needs of teachers and students (Perpustakaan Nasional, 2011).

Within the educational system, quality is always closely related to student input, the implementation process of education with a focus on student services, and the resulting educational outcomes (Sujanto, 2007). This indicates that educational quality consists of three key components: input, process, and output. Input refers to the institution's ability to recruit high-quality students; process relates to the institution's capacity to manage learning resources effectively to support the learning process; and output concerns students' ability to apply the knowledge they have acquired within their educational environment.

In relation to educational quality, library management is positioned within the quality of the educational process, particularly in terms of how effectively educational institutions utilize library resources to support learning activities (Lasa, 2008). Pawit M. Yusuf defines library management as the art and technique of organizing all information resources in a library, both printed and non-printed, to ensure their optimal use by users. Lasa Hs, referring to Jo Bryson, states that library management is an effort to achieve institutional goals through the utilization of human resources, information, systems, and financial resources while considering management functions, roles, and expertise.

Furthermore, D. Stueart identifies three essential components in library management: (1) physical facilities to accommodate library activities, (2) a collection of resources, and (3) personnel responsible for collecting, organizing, and retrieving information needed by users. Among these components, personnel play the most crucial role in bringing a library to life and making it a dynamic and vital force for the community it serves.

Based on these perspectives, library management can be understood as a systematic effort to manage both human and non-human resources within a library. Human resources include librarians and library staff, while non-human resources encompass information collections,

funding, and library service systems. Through effective management of these resources, libraries are expected to play an optimal role in supporting the learning process.

Similarly, the library management at SMAN 1 Puncu has been developed to support improvements in educational quality. Over time, the SMAN 1 Puncu library has expanded its services to include information literacy, circulation, administration, reference services, and internet access.

School libraries serve as vital facilities for students seeking access to information and knowledge, as well as for fostering students' interest in reading and library visits. Librarians not only facilitate book lending but also provide up-to-date information and modern knowledge resources. This is intended to attract students and school staff to utilize library services optimally. The primary role of librarians in school libraries is to contribute to the mission and objectives of the school, including evaluation procedures, as well as to develop and implement the mission and goals of the school library (International Federation of Library Associations). Librarians are expected to provide clear and effective services to library users in order to increase students' interest in visiting the library. When librarians deliver high-quality services, users are more likely to be motivated to utilize library facilities.

The SMAN 1 Puncu school library is one of the senior high school libraries in Kediri Regency that is equipped with adequate facilities. These include automated circulation services for borrowing and returning materials, a collection of printed and digital books for students and staff, internet access, and audio-visual services. However, despite these facilities, student interest in regularly visiting the library remains relatively low. Limited knowledge and strategic skills among librarians have contributed to students' lack of motivation to engage more actively with the library.

2. Method

It is important to note that descriptive qualitative research involves an in-depth understanding of the phenomena under investigation and requires careful observation, analysis, and interpretation of data. The type of research employed in this study is field research, which refers to research in which data sources and research processes are obtained directly from specific settings or locations. This approach was selected because the researcher is directly involved in collecting information from various data sources in the field (Suwandi, 2008). The research approach used in this study is a descriptive approach, which involves a series of steps including data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, and the formulation of conclusions based on the collected data.

The role of the researcher in qualitative research is highly complex. The researcher acts as a planner, implementer, data collector, data analyst, data interpreter, and ultimately as the one who draws and presents the research findings (Moleong, 2000). The research site is located at SMAN 1 Puncu, situated in Puncu District, Kediri Regency. The informants in this study include the school principal, vice principals for curriculum, facilities and infrastructure, and administration, as well as one teacher at SMAN 1 Puncu. The data collection process is also supported by institutional documents (archives) from SMAN 1 Puncu, such as books and reports that provide information regarding the school profile and the quality of education at SMAN 1 Puncu.

3. Results and Discussion

a. The Role of School Libraries in Supporting the Learning Process of Students

The use of school libraries as facilities to support learning, particularly in students' academic subjects, is highly necessary because it provides positive benefits for users. The role of the library includes functioning as a center of information, a center of innovation, and a learning resource. Historically, libraries have long served as learning media for students. However, in the modern era, this role is often challenged by the rapid development of the internet, which provides easy access to a vast range of information worldwide. Nevertheless, the internet cannot fully replace the function of libraries. Libraries remain repositories of knowledge that must be utilized optimally so that they are not displaced by technological advancements.

Students' willingness and curiosity toward libraries are essential for ensuring their effective function. When students have an interest in visiting libraries and reading, the role of the library can operate effectively. In the learning process, it is recognized that some students enjoy certain subjects while others do not. Fundamentally, learning involves examining interactions between individuals, society, and the surrounding environment. Therefore, teacher involvement plays a crucial role in supporting the learning process. In addition to serving as role models in behavior, teachers must master the subject matter and maximize the use of school libraries as reference sources. Similarly, school principals are expected to pay closer attention to teachers' instructional practices to ensure continuous improvement. Thus, it can be concluded that the presence of a school library, according to students, teachers, and the principal, has supported the learning process, although its utilization has not yet reached an optimal level.

b. Factors Influencing the Role of School Libraries in Supporting the Learning Process

Based on the factors identified through interviews, it can be concluded that the role of school libraries in supporting students' learning processes is influenced by several factors. One of the primary factors is students' intrinsic interest. Teachers also play a significant role in encouraging library use. This condition affects the learning process because when students lack interest in visiting the library, teachers must take the initiative to motivate them to do so. One effective strategy is assigning tasks that require students to seek answers by utilizing the school library as a source of information, encouraging them to read relevant textbooks.

In addition to interest, limitations in library facilities also influence the effectiveness of the library's role. Factors such as students' lack of motivation and incomplete book collections further hinder optimal utilization. In this context, the role of the school principal is crucial in making strategic decisions to maximize the use of the school library. Such actions may include increasing the availability of tables, chairs, books, and other necessary facilities that are currently insufficient or unavailable.

4. Conclusion

The school library at SMAN 1 Puncu plays a significant role in supporting the students' learning process, particularly in Social Studies (IPS), as well as in other subjects. Its function extends beyond serving students and teachers of specific disciplines to benefiting the entire

school community. When utilized effectively, the school library provides positive contributions by offering access to various learning resources that help students broaden their knowledge and complete academic assignments. Therefore, the presence of a school library becomes an essential component in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning activities at SMAN 1 Puncu.

However, the effectiveness of the school library in supporting the learning process is influenced by several factors, particularly students' interest in using the library and the adequacy of available facilities. Limited infrastructure and incomplete collections may reduce students' motivation to visit and utilize the library optimally. Consequently, active efforts from the school principal and teachers are required to encourage students to use the library more frequently and to improve its facilities. Through effective management and collaborative support, the school library can function more efficiently and serve as a vital learning resource for students.

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