

Analysis of Factors Influencing Adolescents' Interest in Reading at Public Libraries

Nurul Fadhilah

Sriwijaya University, Indonesia

e-mail: nfdhlh14@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Accepted : 02 May 2024

Revised : 13 May 2024

Approved : 31 May 2024

Keywords:

Reading Interest; Libraries; Teens.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the factors influencing adolescents' interest in reading at public libraries. By combining surveys and qualitative interviews, this study explores various aspects that influence adolescents' interest in reading, including the availability of book collections, library activities, social support, and intrinsic motivation. The results indicate that the availability of engaging book collections, innovative library programs, and social support from family and friends significantly influence adolescents' reading interest. Additionally, individual intrinsic motivation plays a crucial role in shaping adolescents' reading interest. The implications of this study are that public libraries need to develop more effective strategies to enhance adolescents' reading interest by addressing the identified factors. Thus, libraries can play a more active role in supporting literacy development among the younger generation.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescents' interest in reading is crucial for literacy development and the cultivation of intellectual skills among the younger generation. Reading interest in Indonesia remains a cause for concern, as the reading interest levels of the Indonesian public are still lower than those in other countries, particularly in Asia (Hibatulloh et al., 2023). This low level of reading interest remains an unresolved issue to this day. Various programs have been implemented to find the best solution. The cause is that reading interest is not always high; it is influenced by various factors, including a lack of facilities and infrastructure to encourage teenagers to enjoy reading, which also affects reading interest among teenagers (Efendi et al., 2023).

Public libraries, as one of the institutions of informal education, play a crucial role in fostering a love of reading among the public. By providing free access to a wide variety of reading materials, public libraries serve as centers of literacy that enable every individual, regardless of age or background, to broaden their horizons and improve their reading skills. In addition, libraries often organize various programs and activities designed to foster a love of reading, such as book clubs, story time, and literacy



workshops. Thus, public libraries are not only places to borrow books but also community hubs that promote lifelong learning. The existence of libraries is vital for building a culture of reading (Desy, 2021).

However, in an era where digital technology dominates teenagers' lifestyles, the challenge of maintaining their interest in reading has become increasingly complex. Teenagers are now more interested in gadgets and social media, which offer instant entertainment and dynamic social interaction. As a result, the time spent reading conventional books has steadily decreased. Furthermore, exposure to fast-paced and concise digital content has altered their concentration patterns and information preferences. In this context, efforts to sustain and enhance teenagers' interest in reading require creative and innovative approaches, such as integrating technology with literacy through e-books, interactive reading apps, and engaging digital literacy programs. This study aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of the factors influencing teenagers' reading interest in public libraries. By understanding these factors, it is hoped that more effective strategies can be developed to increase teenagers' reading interest and make public libraries more attractive and relevant literacy hubs for teenagers.

METHODOLOGY

The research methods used in this study included surveys and qualitative interviews. The survey was conducted by distributing questionnaires to a number of adolescents visiting public libraries, focusing on aspects such as reading preferences, collection availability, and engaging library activities. Meanwhile, qualitative interviews were conducted with adolescents who had high and low reading interests, with the aim of exploring their perceptions and experiences regarding factors that influence reading interest. Data from both methods were then analyzed separately; survey data were analyzed statistically using specialized software, while interview data were analyzed thematically to identify patterns and key themes. Subsequently, the quantitative and qualitative data were integrated to provide a more holistic understanding of the factors influencing adolescents' reading interest in public libraries. This study was conducted in accordance with research ethics principles, such as obtaining consent from participants and maintaining data confidentiality, to ensure fair treatment of all study participants. By employing this mixed-methods approach, the study is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding and valuable insights for the development of more effective literacy programs in public libraries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research findings indicate that several factors significantly influence teenagers' interest in reading at public libraries. One of the key factors is the availability of a collection of books that are engaging and relevant to teenagers' interests and needs. Teenagers tend to be more interested in reading when the library offers a variety of book titles that align with their interests. Additionally, survey results also indicate that library activities and programs, such as book clubs, creative workshops, and author meet-and-greets, have a positive impact on teenagers' reading interest.

Through qualitative interviews, it was found that psychological and social factors also influence adolescents' interest in reading. Some adolescents revealed that support from their families and friends significantly influences their interest in reading. Adolescents who have a social environment that supports reading tend to have a higher interest in reading. Additionally, internal motivation plays a significant role, as

adolescents with an intrinsic interest in reading tend to be more active in seeking out and reading books. The integration of data from surveys and qualitative interviews indicates that adolescents' reading interest is influenced by various factors, both from their physical and social environments. The availability of an engaging book collection, innovative library programs, support from family and friends, and individual intrinsic motivation all play a role in shaping adolescents' reading interest in public libraries.

The findings of this study have important implications for the development of literacy programs in public libraries. Libraries can foster reading interest among adolescents by providing a diverse collection of books, organizing engaging activities and programs, and involving families and the community in supporting literacy initiatives. Additionally, libraries should take into account the factors that drive adolescents' intrinsic motivation when designing effective literacy programs.

This study shows that adolescents' interest in reading is influenced by various factors, including the availability of book collections, library activities and programs, social support, and intrinsic motivation. By understanding these factors, public libraries can develop more effective strategies to foster adolescents' interest in reading and strengthen the library's role as a vital center for literacy in the community.

CONCLUSION

Teenagers' interest in reading at public libraries is influenced by a number of complex factors. The availability of an engaging and relevant book collection, innovative library activities and programs, social support from family and friends, and individual intrinsic motivation all play a crucial role in shaping teenagers' interest in reading. In the face of the challenge of declining reading interest in the digital age, public libraries need to take concrete steps to boost teenagers' interest in reading. This includes providing a diverse and engaging book collection, organizing entertaining and educational activities and programs, and involving families and the community in supporting youth literacy initiatives. By understanding the factors that influence teenagers' interest in reading, public libraries can develop more effective strategies to promote a culture of reading among the younger generation. In this way, libraries will remain relevant and serve as vital centers of literacy in supporting the development of knowledge and intellectual skills among teenagers and the general public.

LITERATURE

- Desy, H. (2021). Mengembangkan Minat Baca Anak Usia Dini Melalui Kegiatan Literasi Perpustakaan Di Paud Hasanuddin Majedi Banjarmasin. *Jambura Journal of Linguistics and Literature*, 1(2), 37–44. <https://doi.org/10.37905/jjll.v1i2.9227>
- Efendi, Z., Hisyam, W. N., & Risko Faristiana, A. (2023). Kurangnya Minat Baca Buku Kalangan Mahasiswa. *Student Scientific Creativity Journal (SSCJ)*, 1(4), 383. <https://doi.org/10.55606/sscj-amik.v1i4>
- Hibatulloh, S., Sa'adah, N. L., & Marwan, I. (2023). Strategi Penumbuhan Minat Baca Remaja Melalui Modifikasi Cerita Rakyat. *Journal of Education Research*, 4(1), 267–275. <https://doi.org/10.37985/jer.v4i1.157>