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## THE ROLE OF THE FISHERMEN'S LIBRARY IN INCREASING CHILDREN'S READING INTEREST IN THE AIK GENIT TOURISM AREA, SENTELUK VILLAGE, BATULAYAR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACTS	ARTICLE INFO
<p>This study looks into how fishermen's libraries help boost children's interest in reading in the Aik Genit Tourism Area, Senteluk Village, Batulayar District. It also checks how much children are interested in reading in that area. The study used a qualitative and descriptive method, focusing on kids aged 6 to 12 who visit the Fishermen's Library. To collect data, the researchers used unstructured interviews, observations, and record-keeping. They analyzed the data using multiple sources and methods to get a full picture. The study found that: 1) Fishermen's libraries play several roles in increasing children's reading interest, such as being a place where books and human works are kept, a source of information, a non-formal learning place, and a fun space for relaxation. 2) Children's interest in reading is still low. 3) The library faces challenges in improving reading interest, like having a small budget, not enough books, and the influence of online games. 4) To improve reading interest, the library plans to ask for donations, spread information through pamphlets, offer fun activities like outdoor games and coloring contests, and organize outreach programs.</p>	<p><b>Article History:</b></p> <p>Received: August 21<sup>st</sup> 2025</p> <p>Revised: August 27<sup>th</sup> 2025</p> <p>Published: August 2025</p> <hr/> <p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <p>Role of Libraries, Learning, Reading Interest</p>

### INTRODUCTION

As the biggest Muslim population in Indonesia, we know the word of Allah SWT very well, and it teaches the importance of reading. In fact, the interest in reading among Indonesians, especially children, is really low. This lack of interest in reading is quite clear. According to UNESCO, the reading interest of Indonesians is only 0.001%, which means that out of 1,000 people, only one is a regular reader.

On the other hand, libraries as places for reading are not a new idea in local communities. Libraries have already been set up in many areas, like Provincial Libraries, City Libraries, and Village Libraries. They have even been included in schools and other community groups. Libraries are not just for storing books; they also act as centers for information, learning, research, fun, and other helpful services. According to Law No. 43 of 2007 on Libraries, Article 3 says that libraries should serve as tools for teaching, research, preserving information, and providing recreation to help improve the nation's knowledge and development. Surprisingly, this understanding is not yet common in the community. Because

of this, libraries are still mostly used just for keeping books and as simple support for exams or certifications.

Libraries, which are places that take care of information, should be an important part of education, especially when teaching kids how to read, whether at school or at home. But right now, libraries aren't really popular. This can be seen from the number of people visiting the West Nusa Tenggara Provincial Library and Archives Office, which has gone down over the last four years.

Table 1. Number of Visits to the NTB Provincial Library and Archives Service

Kind of servis	Year			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public	34,995	31,804	13,760	11,605

The Indonesian education system doesn't require students to read books, look for information outside of what is taught, or really value things like science, philosophy, literature, and other subjects. This helps explain why many students don't like reading. Most lessons are focused on helping students do well on exams, and there isn't much reason for them to read more books because the system is still focused on results, not on learning how to learn.

If libraries are turned into places where people can read, they can help kids develop a love for reading. This can be done by making libraries quiet, nice, and fun for children. They should have a wide range of books that are well-organized by librarians and run programs that are interesting and engaging. One library that is still working in Senteluk Village is the Fishermen's Library. It was opened on September 27, 2020, and has been running for about two years. It started because some kids who live in the coastal tourist area of Aik Genit Fisherman's Village don't have good things to do. Some of them have even left school. Also, there are many religious people in the area, including Muslims, Christians, and Hindus, who are known for being very tolerant. However, they don't often share their knowledge with local children, especially the Muslim kids. Because of this, Mr. Ajap, an important person in Aik Genit Hamlet, decided to help by using religious leaders to address the problem of kids dropping out of school and not having fun activities. He started the Fishermen's Library.

From the first look, the library was in good shape and well taken care of. But it was found that the interest of children in reading in the Aik Genit Tourism Area was very low. Based on these findings, the researchers did a study called "The Role of Fishermen's Libraries in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in the Aik Genit Tourism Area, Senteluk Village, Batulayar District."

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study used qualitative research with a descriptive approach, which is a method that gathers descriptive data through what people say and do. This type of research is meant to understand and describe current and past events as they happen. The researchers will use this method to create a detailed description of the topic, focusing on the features and other important aspects of how the fishermen's library helps increase children's interest in reading

in the Aik Genit tourism area of Senteluk Village, Batulayar District. The data collection methods are the ways researchers gather the information needed for the study. In this study, the researchers used interviews, observations, and document reviews. Data analysis was done both before and after going into the field. Miles and Huberman explain that "qualitative data analysis is done interactively and continuously until it is complete, so that data saturation is reached." The steps in data analysis include reducing the data, presenting it, and drawing conclusions or verifying findings.

### RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research done, the challenges that fishermen's libraries in the Aik Genit Tourism Area face in boosting children's interest in reading were found, as shown in the table below.

Table 2. Findings of Obstacles and Solutions for Fishermen's Libraries

No	Finding	Analysis
1	Limited budget to build a full-fledged library.	Referring to Bulkisma Putri's statement, a large budget is crucial for a library to run optimally.
2	The limited collection in the fishermen's library has led to a decline in visitors.	Citra Pratama Sari's statement states that a small collection discourages visitors from visiting the library.
3	The use of online games has increased.	Siti Aminah and Totok Priyadi's statement states that with technological advances, children prefer playing online games.
4	Seeking donors to expand the facilities at the fishermen's library.	Researchers refer to Nanang et al., who state that seeking donors is the goal of obtaining voluntary support from sponsors.
5	Distributing pamphlets to inform the public.	Restu Wahyuni and Rachmi Yulianti state that pamphlets are generally used for information or promotion to the wider public.
6	Engaging activities such as outbound activities and coloring contests.	Saenal Abidi and Rahmayanti state that engaging activities aim to entertain visitors to prevent boredom.
7	Holding outreach programs	Rizka Nurul Izzah and others state that the purpose of outreach is to ensure the public understands the background, objectives, and benefits of an activity.

### CONCLUSION

The research on how the fishermen's library helps increase children's interest in reading in the Aik Genit Tourism Area, Senteluk Village, Batulayar District, found that the library acts as a place to store books and other materials, a source of information, a space for learning outside of school, and a place for fun and relaxation. To help the library, some ideas

include getting donations, sharing information through printed materials, organizing fun activities like outdoor games and coloring contests, and doing events to reach more people.

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