The Impact of Deteriorating Library Facility Quality on Student Reading Engagement and Literacy at SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur Indonesia

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Abstract

SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur is the oldest private institution for Senior High School education in Arga Makmur. The study titled The Effect of Declining Quality of Library Facilities on the Reading Activities of SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur Students seeks to investigate the extent of the decline in library facilities to date and to determine whether this deterioration adversely affects students' reading activities. The study employs a quantitative methodology. The data collection included four teachers and four pupils who were fully aware of the condition of the school library facilities. The data is derived from primary sources obtained directly through surveys, interviews, and observations. This study aimed to assess the available school facilities, categorizing them as seriously damaged. The study's results indicated that most respondents rated the library room facilities as 2 out of 5, signifying low condition.

Keywords: *Facilities, Quality Reduction, and Student Reading Activities*

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Introduction

School facilities are essential components and structures that support educational activities and instruction. Educational activities undoubtedly utilize facilities to ensure their effective and efficient execution. The school's teaching and learning facilities include classrooms, libraries, laboratories, stationery, notebooks, reading materials, projector screens, chairs, tables, technological devices such as PCs and laptops, printers, sports equipment, fields, and restrooms. In the educational activities conducted at school, human resources are not the sole foundation for all endeavours. The efficacy of pupils and teachers in education is significantly affected by the condition of school facilities. Including how student learning results might be influenced by many factors. Djaali (2012, 98-100) asserts that student productivity is affected by various factors, including intrinsic elements such as health, intelligence, motivation, interests, and learning methods, as well as extrinsic elements like family, school, community, and environmental factors. Learning facilities are external elements that influence learning results.

The Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI) defines "facilities" as instruments that aid the execution of functions or services. Learning facilities play a crucial part in facilitating student learning activities, as they are seen as essential infrastructure that supports educational endeavours both at home and at school. Upon the completion and optimal utilization of learning facilities by students, the school anticipates that students will enhance their learning outcomes by attaining numerous achievements, both academic and non-academic.

According to Arikunto and Sam (2008, as cited in Faisal and Habsyi, 2020, p.15) facilities are defined as any elements that support the execution of various activities. The initiation and establishment of this enterprise may involve tangible assets and financial resources. Thus, facilities can be equated with those in educational institutions. The quality and standards of schools are significantly influenced by the provision, adequacy, and management of educational facilities and infrastructure.

School facilities encompass furniture, educational equipment, media, books, and various learning resources, consumables, land, classrooms, administrative offices, educator rooms, library spaces, laboratories, workshops, production units, canteens, sports venues, and places of worship. Facilities are regarded as comprehensive learning resources for pupils that must be accessible both at school and at home to meet their educational needs. Students can learn effectively and enjoyably provided

the school provides adequate facilities and infrastructure for education. The efficacy of the teaching and learning process in schools is contingent upon the provision of appropriate facilities, encompassing quantity, conditions, and additional resources.

The tangible quality of a school is reflected in its facilities, the level of student engagement, academic achievements, graduate quality, instructor proficiency, and other physical attributes. The school that is most sought after by numerous pupils is classified as a quality or excellent institution. During periods of student enrolment shortages, certain schools were compelled to close due to their failure to achieve the Minimum Service Standards (SPM). In addition to the insufficient student enrolment, certain schools were compelled to shut down due to their inability to compete and the diminished interest from prospective students relative to other institutions deemed more favourable. Evaluating the quality of a school is a complex undertaking. Reputation is a crucial factor in assessing the quality of a school.

Consequently, educational facilities are deemed significant, necessitating careful attention in their administration to effectively support a quality learning process. The facilities possessed by educational institutions should not be overlooked in the learning process. The absence of infrastructure will hinder the effective implementation of education. In the absence of infrastructure, student learning activities will be challenging to implement, hindering student progress. Likewise, inadequate quality of owned facilities will impede student learning activities. Inadequate upkeep of school facilities adversely affects student learning activities, hence diminishing the quality of those facilities.

Rahayu and Sutama (2016) determined that facilities are essential resources directly required to facilitate the student learning process. Infrastructure serves as an indirect instrument that facilitates the teaching and learning process to attain educational objectives. Facilities and infrastructure are a concern for stakeholders regarding their audience. In the Gen Z age, kids perceive schools as superior not due to academic accomplishments. Nonetheless, regarding the caliber of support within the educational institution. Students undoubtedly desire to enroll in an institution equipped with comprehensive, sufficient, and supportive facilities for educational activities. The quality of an item is classified into four categories: extremely good, good, lightly damaged, and badly damaged. The buildings and infrastructure at SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur require attention, particularly the classrooms, libraries, computer rooms, and restrooms, as they are significantly deteriorated. The school facilities

must function normally to ensure that the environment serves not merely as a physical structure but also significantly influences its occupants.

The library acts as a repository for materials, whereas the school library serves as a facility and infrastructure aimed at facilitating the learning process in educational institutions, thereby enhancing the quality of Indonesian education, which is vital for national development. School libraries exist to fulfill the informational requirements of the respective school community, serving as a medium and resource to enhance activities within the educational process at the institutional level (Lestari & Harisuna, 2019). The library serves as a venue for students to acquire supplementary knowledge through the available reading materials. The enhancement of students' insight significantly contributes to critical thinking skills, interdisciplinary comprehension, and profound knowledge beneficial for both academic and non-academic pursuits. Engaging with diverse literature will enhance pupils' cognitive processes.

They possess the ability to examine information, juxtapose concepts, and make conclusions grounded in comprehensive knowledge. This will also assist students in comprehending complex situations from a more profound perspective. Expanded perspectives enhance student creativity. They possess the capability to generate novel concepts and inventive solutions, both in academia and in artistic endeavors.

Enhanced knowledge will augment pupils' capacity to articulate viewpoints, engage in discussions, or compose effectively, since they possess more pertinent references and facts. Enhanced insights lead to more confidence among students during discussions and examinations. They will exhibit greater autonomy in problem-solving rather than solely depending on knowledge from educators.

Books frequently offer insights into moral, ethical, and cultural values, enhancing students' comprehension of the world. This aids in the development of a robust character and a more astute perspective on life. The decline in the quality of school library facilities is evident in those classified as severely damaged, including library rooms with compromised ceilings, semi-permanent walls with openings merely secured by iron wire, constricted reading areas, an absence of updated literature or new series, and non-functional restrooms. Desks and chairs in the library designated for reading are beginning to deteriorate.

The deterioration of library amenities would undoubtedly diminish students' enthusiasm in utilizing the library for reading. Students exhibit diminished enthusiasm for reading activities due to the inadequacy of facilities in the current library. For instance, during a school meeting, certain educators may request that students read in the library, but students

choose studying autonomously in the classroom. The library serves as an indicator of the surrounding community's progress. The evaluation of libraries has shifted from number to quality.

The library's success rate is evidenced by the quality of service rendered by its managers and the degree of user satisfaction (Guntara & Suryani, 2017). Two variables influence pupils' diminished interest in reading, particularly with their infrequent visits to the school library: internal causes and external factors. Internal forces originate from within each learner. Internal aspects encompass a propensity for lethargy in activities, whilst students engaged in several extracurricular and organizational commitments lack the time to visit the library.

Indolence has emerged as an impediment for certain individuals in engaging in activities. Laziness may stem from diminished interest and motivation among pupils. Alongside diminished interest and drive, students generally lack a passion for reading, much less for borrowing library books. Engaged in several activities, many students find their daily lives overwhelming, which contributes to their reluctance to provide time for library visits due to fatigue from their commitments. (Muhtadien & Krismayani, 2019).

Literature Review

Library Room
The school's facilities include study rooms, classrooms, laboratories, offices, a library, and the principal's office. Computers, warehouses, and school restrooms are classified as educational facilities. The room in the school is typically utilized by students during school days. Learning activities predominantly occur in educational settings, such as classrooms and laboratories. Nonetheless, not all education occurs within the confines of the classroom.

The library serves as the second venue for students to enhance their knowledge through the school's collection of books. Effective reading activities require adequate supporting facilities or rooms. Support is aimed at ensuring pupils feel secure and at ease during reading activities. If children experience discomfort and insecurity while reading activities, it can be inferred that the state of the school's rooms or facilities is inadequate.

Equipment in the Library Room
The tools used in student reading activities include collection of books of many types, tables and chairs. Without equipment and supporting

equipment in reading activities, students cannot enjoy their reading properly because they feel hampered by tools that are not supported or inadequate to use. One of the advantages of schools is schools that provide good and complete facilities and infrastructure for their students. Equipment and equipment in reading activities at school play a very important role in developing education for students. Not just tables and chairs, but the interior arrangement of the reading room needs to be considered so that the atmosphere of the reading room does not look boring.

Collection Books

The availability of several book varieties in the library is a crucial aspect of the facility. An ideal library should have a diverse collection of books to cater to the needs of different customers, including:

1. Reference materials including dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, atlases, and scientific texts that are beneficial for study or for obtaining concise and comprehensive information.
2. Academic and scientific books are textbooks that underpin the academic curriculum or a particular discipline, including law, economics, social sciences, mathematics, biology, chemistry, and engineering or medicine.
3. Fiction and literature encompass novels, short tales, poems, and both classic and modern works to stimulate reading interest and offer inspiration and insight into cultural nuances and the beauty of language.
4. Literature on self-development and abilities, including time management, motivation, study techniques, communication skills enhancement, leadership, and personal financial planning.
5. The History and Culture Book encompasses local, national, and international history, alongside material on cultural heritage, global culture, and many historical viewpoints.
6. Technology and Innovation Books encompass literature pertaining to technological advancements, the industrial revolution, digital innovation, and manuals on the application of contemporary technology.
7. Art and Design Books comprise compilations on visual art, graphic design, photography, architecture, and contemporary art, serving as references and sources of inspiration for anyone engaged in the creative domain.

8. Religious and Spirituality Books, a diverse collection of texts on religion, philosophy, and spirituality designed to fulfill the needs of individuals seeking to enhance their comprehension of specific ideas or ideologies.
9. Picture books, children's encyclopedias, young adult novels, and engaging educational literature to cultivate an early enthusiasm in reading.
10. Career and Professional Guidebooks, including texts on career planning, interview preparation, work skills, and specialized instruction in disciplines such as business, law, or finance.

Purpose: This research concerns the effect of declining the quality of school library facilities in student reading activities from year to year at SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur, North Bengkulu which was carried out directly from October 16 to October 18, 2024.

Research Methods

In this study, the author uses a quantitative research method. Bambang (2018) stated that quantitative research is research on a subject/object that is not in the form of classification but can show the weight that is the difference between one data and another. The data source used is primary data and secondary data is also used. Primary data is data obtained or collected during surveys and interviews with students and teachers of SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from available sources such as in the Introduction to Social Statistics and journals that are in accordance with the research.

This research concerns the effect of declining the quality of school library facilities in student reading activities from year to year at SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur, North Bengkulu which was carried out directly from October 16 to October 18, 2024. Conducting interviews in the study is an important part because at this stage the researcher collects data to obtain information by conducting a face-to-face question and answer session with students directly by paying attention to the actual school conditions. Data was obtained using 2 data collection techniques, namely surveys and interviews with school residents as informants who are students. Data collection was carried out for 3 days at Smas Pgri Arga Makmur. The following is data from informants who have been willing to be involved in data collection for this study:

No.	Student's Name	Frequency Visit Library	Class	Address
1	Prompt Prabowo	1x per month	11	Rama the Great
2	Muhammad Alfian Pratama	1x per month	11	Nature Mountain
3	M. Sajehan Tawakal	2x per month	11	Arma Jaya
4	Sofia Indah Permata	3x per month	11	Iron Water

(obtained based on interview results)

Results and Discussion

The results of the study were adjusted to the acquisition of information from respondents regarding the decline in school library facilities from year to year so that it had an impact on student reading activities which also decreased due to inadequate facilities to support the process of student reading activities. The decline in library facilities in the last 2 years has had an impact on students' interest in visiting school libraries. The decline in library facilities affects the services that schools provide to their students. Point ratings 0-5 result in a more dominant point located at point 2. This refers to the quality of school library facilities which has a poor meaning.
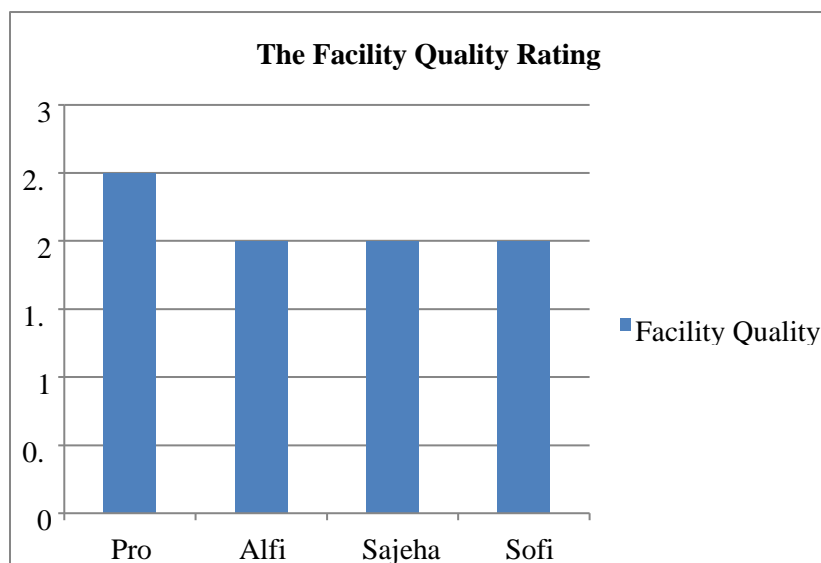
According to the opinion of the teacher this year from the previous few years, the room in the school is already in a state of severe damage, while the state of equipment is classified as severely damaged also because the equipment owned by the school is very minimal. Grade 11 science students also argue that during the year they studied at Smas Pgri Arga Makmur, during the two years the facilities in the school library were getting worse and worse.

Even like it is no longer suitable for use. For example, the library room in the hallway divider, the bookshelves on the roof of the ceiling have collapsed or no longer have a ceiling. At the beginning of students becoming new students at their school, students and students rarely visit the library because the reading room in the library is quite stuffy or hot. The discomfort felt by students makes them reluctant to visit the library. Even though they have been given a schedule to visit the library at least once a month. They visit the library at least once a month just to fulfill the school program that requires students to read in the library. Students and students who were respondents gave point 2 to the rating of the quality of library facilities because it showed serious problems in the condition of the available facilities. They considered that library facilities were in the category of severely damaged, which included bookshelves that were not sturdy or had begun to deteriorate, chairs or tables that were not suitable for use, and inadequate lighting.

This reflects the need for urgent attention to repair and update facilities so that the library becomes a comfortable and functional place for learning activities again. Poor facility conditions not only have an impact on decreasing students' interest in visiting the library but can also reduce the effectiveness of the library as a means of supporting learning. Therefore, the school needs to take strategic steps such as procuring new facilities, repairing damaged facilities, and involving students in maintaining the cleanliness and comfort of the library. With this effort, the quality of the library is expected to improve to provide a more positive experience for students.

Reduced interest in visiting the library can affect their knowledge and insights. Libraries provide a variety of learning resources such as books, journals, and reference materials that are not always available online. If students do not take advantage of these facilities, they lose the opportunity to expand their knowledge from credible and in-depth sources. By visiting the library, students learn how to find, evaluate, and use information effectively. Without these skills, their analytical abilities and critical nature can decline.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Based on the results of data collection and analysis obtained on the decline of school library facilities at SMAS PGRI Arga Makmur. The decline in school facilities refers to the facilities and infrastructure in the library, which occurred from year to year until the Covid period experienced a very drastic shrinkage because school facilities were abandoned due to student learning activities being transferred online so that no maintenance was carried out on school facilities for approximately 1.5 years. So that in 2024 facilities that are already in a state of damage will be severely damaged.

For library facilities not to shrink and decline continuously, maintenance of facilities is needed. The maintenance carried out does not always have to be done by the school cleaners. However, it is also from other school residents such as students and teachers who must participate in maintaining the cleanliness of the library room. Maintenance is carried out so that there is no decrease in quality or damage to the facility, so it must be routinely carried out by having a schedule such as cleaning dust on bookshelves, maintaining the cleanliness of tables and chairs, and tidying up books after use once or twice a week and others in order to prevent damage due to dust accumulation or other environmental factors.

In addition, minor repairs to facilities such as replacing lights that are off or repairing damaged seats need to be carried out immediately to maintain user comfort. With consistent care and involving all parties, the library will not only remain clean and comfortable, but it can also continue to be an attractive and rewarding place for students to learn and develop their insights.

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