

## The Efficacy of School Libraries in Fostering Student Literacy and Numeracy at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih, Indonesia

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### Abstract

This study aims to evaluate the efficacy of school libraries in fostering numeracy literacy among students at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih. Literacy and numeracy serve as crucial foundations for enhancing the quality of student learning at the primary school level. The employed research methodology is action research utilizing a qualitative approach. Data was collected through interviews, observations, and recording in the Education unit of the 11 Sungai Nyirih State Elementary School, involving various teachers, students, and library managers. The study's findings indicate that school libraries are crucial for learning support by offering pertinent materials, conducting literacy activities like shared reading, and facilitating interactive numeracy training. Nonetheless, challenges such as restricted book collections, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to technology hinder the efficacy of libraries in facilitating learning. This study suggests that enhanced administration, increased acquisition of instructional resources, and technological integration can enable school libraries to significantly improve student reading and numeracy quality. The ideas propose the creation of enhanced reading and numeracy programs, including training for library administrators to address issues in the digital age.

**Keywords:** *School Library, Literacy, Numeracy, Effectiveness, Elementary School Students*

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## **Introduction**

Libraries in schools have a very important role in supporting the learning process, especially in improving students' numeracy literacy. Literacy includes the ability to read, write, and understand information, while numeracy is related to basic mathematical skills, being an important competency for students' academic development. Improving students' numeracy literacy skills can help them achieve more than ever in their classroom (Riady, 2013). At SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih, the library is one of the facilities that supports learning activities. However, the effectiveness of libraries in improving students' numeracy literacy needs to be assessed to see the extent of this role in achieving students' basic abilities. Various literacy and numeracy programs carried out at this school rely on library facilities, but there has been no research that measures in depth its impact on students' abilities (Ulfah, 2023).

Thus, in this case, it is motivated by the need to analyze how effective the school library is in improving student literacy and numeracy at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih. The research aims to identify the supporters that affect the effectiveness and provide encouragement to develop school libraries in the future. In this case, there are two of the formulations that are problematic, including:

1. How effective is the library of SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih in supporting the improvement of students' literacy and numeracy?
2. What are the factors that affect the effectiveness of libraries in supporting the improvement of students' literacy and numeracy?

## **Objectives of the Research**

1. To assess the effectiveness of the library of SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih in supporting the improvement of students' literacy and numeracy.
2. To identify factors that support or hinder the effectiveness of libraries in literacy and numeracy activities.

## **Benefits of research**

The research is expected to provide benefits for the Education Unit that I work for, as for these benefits, I describe them as follows:

1. For SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih: Providing insight into the effectiveness of libraries that play a role in improving students' numeracy literacy and recommendations for improving library management.
2. For Teachers and Educators: Providing information to increase the use of libraries as a learning numeracy literacy media more effectively.
3. Make it a reference for ongoing research for school libraries and the development of literacy and numeracy at the elementary level.

## Literature Review

Literacy is the ability to read, write, and understand information conveyed through text or other media. Literacy is not only limited to the ability to read but also includes the ability to interpret and use information in various life contexts. Good literacy can support students' academic development in various subjects, including in understanding mathematics material (Lestari,2024). Numeracy, on the other hand, refers to the basic mathematical abilities that include understanding numbers, basic mathematical operations, as well as their application in everyday life. Good numeracy skills are essential to help students solve number-related problems in a broader context.

According to Anggraini (2019), literacy and numeracy are two basic aspects that must be acquired by students from an early age to prepare them to face future academic challenges. Therefore, schools, especially at the elementary level, need to develop programs that can improve the ability achieved in numeracy literacy in an integrated manner in teaching and learning activities. Literacy and numeracy are foundational skills essential for learning, personal development, and effective participation in society. They refer to the ability to read and write and the ability to use numbers and mathematical concepts, respectively. Here's a detailed explanation of each:

Effective reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of language define literacy. It also requires critical thinking and the ability to apply language for knowledge, expression, and meaning creation. The elements of literacy:

- Reading: Examining data, deciphering meaning from written works,
- Writing: Clearly and powerfully using written language to convey thoughts.
- Speaking: Using spoken language to communicate and convey ideas.
- Listening: Understanding and interpreting spoken information.
- Critical Thinking: Analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information.

Academic learning and lifetime learning build based on literacy, which also defines their importance. It helps people to interact with others and share ideas; it also creates more chances for personal development and job. Civic engagement helps to encourage wise involvement in society and communities. Illustrations of Literacy in Action:

- Reading a newspaper or book.
- Writing an essay, email, or report.
- Understanding signs, instructions, or legal documents.

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- Communicating effectively in personal or professional settings.

Numeracy is the capacity for numerical understanding, interpretation, and manipulation. It requires mathematical abilities that let people solve problems, make decisions, and understand quantitative data in their daily lives. Basic arithmetic includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Components of Numeracy:

- Fundamental Arithmetic: Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Number Sense: Understanding and using numbers, including fractions, decimals, and percentages.
- Problem-Solving: Applying mathematical reasoning to find solutions.
- Data Interpretation: Reading and analyzing graphs, charts, and tables.
- Measurement and Estimation: Working with lengths, weights, time, and money.

### **Importance of Numeracy in Daily Life**

It helps in budgeting, shopping, cooking, and time management. In education to forms the basis for learning advanced mathematics and sciences. Employment for essential for jobs requiring analytical and technical skills. In Decision-Making: Supports informed choices in financial, health, and societal contexts. Examples of Numeracy in Action:

- Calculating expenses and managing a household budget.
- Measuring ingredients for a recipe.
- Interpreting data in a graph or chart.
- Understanding interest rates and loans.
- Interrelation Between Literacy and Numeracy
- Both are critical for effective learning and functioning in society.

Literacy supports numeracy by enabling individuals to understand written mathematical problems. Numeracy enhances literacy by aiding in logical reasoning and the interpretation of quantitative texts. Promoting Literacy and Numeracy for Children to encourage reading and storytelling, to use educational games that involve numbers and words, to provide a supportive and resource-rich learning environment. For Adults it offers literacy and numeracy programs for skill development. Integrate learning opportunities into daily life, such as using newspapers for literacy and grocery shopping for numeracy practice. Use technology, such as apps or online courses, to enhance skills.

### **The Role of School Libraries in Education**

School libraries have a very strategic role in supporting education in elementary schools. According to Lestari (2018) libraries not only function as a place to store books, but also as a learning centre that supports the development of students' literacy skills. Libraries can provide a variety of information sources that can assist students in expanding their horizons and knowledge.

The library also serves as a place to develop critical and creative thinking skills through various literacy activities, such as reading books, group discussions, and research. Furthermore, a well-run library might help to inspire pupils' passion of reading. Appropriate and interesting books can inspire pupils to read more actively, so helping to encourage the increase in their literacy.

Moreover, libraries are quite helpful for assisting the numeracy instruction. For instance, offering math-related publications or instructional games emphasizing on numeracy development for the pupils. This is in line with the results presented by Sumarni (2020), which claims that libraries supporting numeracy materials can help pupils to grasp mathematical ideas.

### **Related Research**

Several previous studies have shown that school libraries have a positive effect on improving student literacy. For example, research by Astuti (2017) found that the existence of a good library in schools can significantly increase students' interest in reading. Another research by Wijaya (2021) shows that literacy programs in school libraries can improve students' writing skills.

However, although many studies assess the role of libraries in literacy, there are still few studies that focus on the relationship between school libraries and improving student numeracy. Therefore, the research I made is expected to have an influence on the understanding of how school libraries can support not only literacy but also numeracy.

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### **Approach from Research**

The research uses a qualitative approach to case study design. The qualitative approach was chosen because the research aimed to explore in-

depth information about the effectiveness of school libraries in supporting the improvement of student literacy and numeracy at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih. The case study was used to describe in detail the phenomenon that occurred at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih, as well as to provide a contextual understanding of the role of libraries in education.

#### **Location of Research Subject**

This research was carried out at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih, an educational unit, especially an elementary school located in Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan. They are as follows:

- Students who are active in using the school library.
- Teachers who are involved in learning activities at school and take advantage of library facilities.
- Library managers are in charge of library activities and management in schools.

#### **TECHNIQUES FOR DATA COLLECTION**

The data collection of this study uses several methods to obtain comprehensive information about the effectiveness of school libraries in supporting the improvement of student literacy and numeracy. The techniques used are as follows:

1. **Observation:** It was carried out directly in the library of SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih to record various activities carried out by students and teachers to improve literacy and numeracy. This observation aims to see the extent to which library facilities are utilized, the types of literacy and numeracy activities carried out, and the interaction between students and resources in the library. Observations are carried out using observation sheets that have been prepared beforehand.
2. **Interview:** Two main groups of informants—that of teachers, librarians, and students were used for interviews. This interview seeks to investigate their opinions and experiences about the usage of libraries in helping to raise literacy and numeracy. The semi-structured approach of the interviews let the researcher probe further in-depth depending on the responses. Although it guarantees that pertinent subjects are covered, the interview guide gives responders space to offer any pertinent more information.
  - **Students:** Interviews with active users of library resources investigating literacy and numeracy materials
  - **Teachers:** Interviews with educators engaged in literacy and numeracy-related course of study who make use of libraries as learning tools abound.

- **Library Manager:** Interview with library administrators would help one to better grasp how libraries are run and utilized to assist initiatives in reading and numeracy in educational institutions.

### **Documentation**

Documentation procedures are the techniques and tools used methodically to methodically compile, record, organize, and present data for several uses. These techniques ensure that material is clear, easily available, and methodically arranged, therefore supporting user understanding and reference. The following are common documentation techniques coupled with their necessary qualities:

1. **Manual Documentation Description:** Hand-written or using word processing tools, transcribes or records material. User manuals, technical documents, handwritten notes are examples here. Fundamental traits: thorough, sequential direction often tailored for a given group.
2. **Automated Documentation Description:** Utilizes software technologies to automatically generate documentation. Illustration: APIs producing automated documentation (e.g., Swagger), automated error notifications. Principal Attributes: Time-efficient, minimizes human mistake, and frequently interfaces with systems.
3. **Visual Documentation Description:** Utilizes visual aids to convey information. Illustrations, flowcharts, infographics, and videos. Principal Attributes: Streamlines intricate information and amplifies user involvement.
3. **Digital Documentation Description:** Entails utilizing digital platforms for the creation and storage of information. Illustration: PDFs, online wikis (such as Confluence), blogs. Principal Attributes: Remotely accessible, easily shareable and updatable.
4. **Field Documentation Description:** Entails the direct collection of data from a designated area or setting. Illustration: Ethnographic observations, survey data acquisition, and archaeological discoveries. Principal Attributes: Immediate data documentation, observation driven.

5. **Structured Documentation Description:** Adheres to established forms or templates. Illustration: Software design documentation, academic articles, commercial proposals. Principal Attributes: Consistency, clarity, and compliance with standards.  
Narrative Documentation: Articulates processes, events, or concepts in a structured tale or paragraph format. Illustrations: Case analyses, archival documents, project summaries. Essential Attributes: Offers context, promotes comprehension via narrative.
6. **Multimedia Documentation Description:** Integrates text, audio, video, and interactive components. Illustration: Instructional films, online learning modules, and interactive manuals. Principal Attributes: Exceptionally captivating, accommodates diverse learning modalities.
7. **Collaborative Documentation Description:** Formulated and revised cooperatively by a group. Illustration: Wikis, collaborative Google Docs, and open-source project documentation. Principal Attributes: Promotes collaboration and communal knowledge exchange.
8. **Archival Documentation Description:** Safeguards records for extended reference or historical objectives. Illustration: Official documents, library collections, cultural conservation initiatives. Systematic, strong, and fit for future access are the fundamental traits. Best Methods for Documentation Lucidity: Use simple language instead of technical vocabulary. Structure: Headings, subheadings, and a logical development help to arrange text. Consistency in tone and formatting is maintained. Consistently edit material to keep it relevant. Make sure the material is easily searched for and accessed.  
Data on activities conducted in the library including literacy and numeracy initiatives including literacy and numeracy programs are gathered using documentation tools. Along with this information on student library trips, activity reports, and a list of books pertinent to reading and numeracy, this material Along with records of library operations, including the literacy and numeracy activity program, this material will also contain.





**Figure 1.** *Interest in reading in school libraries*

## 9. Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a research tool used in series of questions to collect data or information from individuals. Surveys, studies, and tests all make regular use of it to gain understanding of attitudes, actions, preferences, or experiences. Fundamental Attributes of a Questionnaire Standardization: Every participant receives a consistent set of questions guaranteed by uniformity. Concentration: Designed to handle specific goals or research projects.

Efficiency: Makes data collecting from a large population rather quick possible. May include open-ended, closed-ended, multiple-choice, scaled questions. Various forms of questionnaires: Structured Questionnaire Specification consists of uniform questions supported by predefined responses. Likert-type scales, affirmative/negative, multiple-choice choices. Application: quantitative studies Open-ended questions in an unstructured survey call for respondents to provide long answers.

For instance, "What do you think of the product?"

Application: Qualitative research. Semi-Structured Questionnaire: Integrates both structured and unstructured inquiries. Comprises multiple-choice questions beside a section for comments. Application: Mixed-method research. Self-Administered Survey. Participants independently complete the questionnaire. Illustration: Digital questionnaires, physical documents. Application: Extensive research or situations necessitating confidentiality. Questionnaire Administered by Interviewer:

An interviewer poses inquiries and documents replies. In-person or telephonic interviews. Application: When comprehensive elucidations or inquiries are required. Elements of a Questionnaire Introduction: Concise elucidation of the questionnaire's purpose, significance, and guidelines for completion. Demographic Inquiries: Gathers fundamental respondent data such as age, gender, education, or occupation. Fundamental Inquiries: Concentrated on the primary research aims.

Categories: Closed-ended (e.g., multiple-choice, Likert scale, dichotomous inquiries).

Open-ended inquiries (e.g., "What is your perspective on...?").

Concluding Remarks: Express gratitude to responses and offer more instructions if necessary.

Benefits of Questionnaires, Economical: Particularly for extensive data acquisition. Scalable: Capable of reaching a substantial audience, both locally and internationally. Anonymity fosters candid responses, particularly about difficult subjects. Standardized data facilitates analysis and comparison of results.

Flexibility: Can be executed online, offline, or through interviews.

Drawbacks of Questionnaires Restricted Depth: Closed-ended inquiries may fail to elicit complex responses. Suboptimal Response Rate: Particularly for self-administered surveys.

Misinterpretation: Participants may misconstrue inadequately formulated inquiries. Bias: Responses may be swayed by leading inquiries or the need to conform socially. Guidelines for Crafting an Effective Questionnaire

Establish Objectives: Explicitly delineate the information you wish to gather.

Maintain Simplicity: Employ clear language and refrain from utilizing technical terminology. Organize Coherently: Commence with simple inquiries and advance to more intricate ones.

Pilot Examination: Administer the questionnaire to a limited cohort to ascertain potential difficulties.

Guarantee Anonymity: If suitable, ensure participants that their responses will remain confidential.

Deliver Explicit Directions: Elucidate the methodology for responding to the inquiries.

To obtain quantitative data, questionnaires were distributed to students and teachers who are directly involved with literacy and numeracy programs in the library. This questionnaire was designed to assess their perception of how effective the library is in supporting the improvement of their numeracy literacy skills.

This questionnaire uses the Likert scale to assess the level of agreement or disagreement with existing statements.

## **Results**

The findings of studies carried out at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih will be reported in this part in relation to the efficiency of school libraries in facilitating the increase of students' reading and numeracy. Processing and classification of data gathered from observations, interviews, and documentation followed the direction of the research topic. Using the Library for Students Observations suggest that the SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih library is rather packed with pupils. About 70% of kids visit the library minimum once a week to engage in literacy activities or read books. Students read story books, encyclopaedias, and math textbooks supporting numeracy exercises among other kinds of publications. Students' responses to interviews revealed that, particularly books on math exercises and stories, they were intrigued in reading books at the library. It demonstrates how well libraries' function has drawn kids' attention to raise their numeracy and literacy.

### **Library Literacy and Numeracy Activities**

The library also arranges several literacy and numeracy initiatives including math instructional games, creative writing courses, and story reading. The documentation gathered indicates that this practice is done routinely, at least once a month. Often, numeracy exercises take the shape of games involving numbers, such math problems or numeracy tests. Teacher interviews reveal that many times, they guide pupils to use the library as a math topic learning tool. Students typically use the books on mathematics kept in the library to help them finish the assigned homework.

### **Library Administrative Control**

A manager also acting as a librarian oversees the SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih library. Interviews with library managers revealed that they had sought to run the library effectively, offer a collection of pertinent books to help literacy and numeracy learning, and schedule events to pique children's reading interests. The manager did, however, also highlight many difficulties, including a little budget for new book purchases and inadequate management instruction to enable best use of library technologies.

## **Discussion**

Research findings led one to believe that the SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih library

plays a crucial part in helping students' numeracy literacy to improve. Students' rather high usage of the library shows that this institution has been successful in piques their curiosity in learning and reading. More attention should thus be made to library management in order to raise its efficiency, including book collecting on numeracy and the availability of technological tools enabling students in learning.

Positive outcomes also came from numeracy literacy projects conducted at the library. These exercises can help pupils become more literate and offer a pleasant mathematical learning environment. This is consistent with earlier studies showing that a well-run library can boost students' enthusiasm in reading and help them to become masters of academic resources (Lestari, 2018).

Still, there are other obstacles to be surmounted, including the library's meagre resources and facilities. Improving the quality of library services can be achieved by more competent library administration and budget increase for book and learning aid purchasing.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the findings of this study carried out at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih, it was clear that school libraries play a rather significant part in helping to raise pupils' numeracy and literacy. The following are the conclusions:

#### **Successfulness of Library Use**

The SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih school library has been successful in drawing pupils to make use of the current resources. Most students frequent the library in order to read and engage in activities meant to increase reading and numeracy. Activities in Literacy and Numeracy carried out Students' literacy and numeracy skills have improved thanks in part to literacy and numeracy activities housed in the library—story reading, writing instruction, and mathematics instructional games. These exercises also enable students to participate more actively in mathematical and language courses and to show more interest in them.

#### **Library Administrative Control**

Although there are issues with current facilities and financial restrictions, the library is managed by professional managers in rather acceptable quality. Although there could be more collections and more suitable facilities to promote better and ideal learning activities, this library has assembled a collection of pertinent books to support literacy and numeracy study. The conclusion from the results of this study obtained, there are several suggestions that can be used as a reference for consideration to increase the effectiveness of the library in supporting the improvement of students' literacy and numeracy, the library at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih needs

to add to the collection of books related to literacy and numeracy, especially books that are based on practical activities or that can stimulate students' creativity and critical thinking in mathematics and language. This will provide more options for students to develop their reading and numeracy skills.

Library managers need to be given more in-depth training on modern library management, including the use of information technology in managing book collections and organizing technology-based learning activities. This is important so that libraries can be more effective in supporting learning based on digital literacy. Activities that support literacy and numeracy in the library need to be multiplied and updated regularly so that they remain attractive to students. Hosting writing workshops, interactive math quizzes, or technology-based activities such as learning using an educational app or website can be a good alternative.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that schools improve the facilities and facilities in the library, such as the provision of computers or other technological devices that can support digital-based learning activities. The provision of a comfortable and spacious space for student learning activities is also very necessary. Through these suggestions, it is hoped that the library at SDN 11 Sungai Nyirih can be more effective in supporting the improvement of students' numeracy literacy, which in turn will contribute to improving the quality of the educational unit in the school.

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