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The Effect of Literacy Education on Early Childhood Development

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Abstrak

Kata Kunci:

Pendidikan Literasi;
Anak Usia Dini;
Keterlibatan Orang
Tua; Keterampilan
Literasi Anak

Pendidikan literasi pada anak usia dini berperan penting dalam membentuk landasan bagi perkembangan kognitif dan sosial mereka. Studi ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki pengaruh Pendidikan literasi terhadap anak usia dini dengan memperhatikan beberapa hal seperti Kurangnya perhatian terhadap Pendidikan literasi pada anak usia dini dapat mengakibatkan kesenjangan dalam perkembangan literasi anak, terutama di lingkungan dengan keterbatasan akses terhadap sumber daya literasi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi dampak program Pendidikan literasi terhadap perkembangan literasi anak usia dini serta untuk menyoroti pentingnya keterlibatan orang tua dalam mendukung literasi anak-anak mereka. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah studi kuantitatif dengan pendekatan eksperimen. Data dikumpulkan melalui tes literasi yang diadaptasi untuk anak usia dini sebelum dan setelah intervensi. Analisis data menunjukkan peningkatan yang signifikan dalam keterampilan literasi anak usia dini setelah intervensi Pendidikan literasi. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menemukan bahwa keterlibatan orang tua dalam mendukung literasi anak memiliki dampak positif yang signifikan terhadap perkembangan literasi anak usia dini. Temuan penelitian ini menegaskan pentingnya Pendidikan literasi pada anak usia dini sebagai Upaya untuk mengatasi kesenjangan literasi. Dengan melibatkan orang tua dan pengasuh dalam mendukung literasi anak, program-program Pendidikan literasi dapat menjadi lebih efektif dalam membentuk fondasi literasi yang kuat pada tahap awal kehidupan anak.

Abstract

Keywords: Literacy
Education; Early

*Literacy education in early childhood has an important
role in forming the foundation of their cognitive and social*

Childhood; Parental Involvement; Children's Literacy Skills

development. This study aims to investigate the influence of literacy education on early childhood by paying attention to several things such as. Lack of attention to literacy education in early childhood can result in gaps in children's literacy development, especially in environments with limited access to literacy resources. This research aims to evaluate the impact of literacy education programs on early childhood literacy development and to highlight the importance of parental involvement in supporting their children's literacy. The research method used is a quantitative study with an experimental approach. Data were collected through a literacy test adapted for early childhood before and after intervention. Data analysis shows a significant increase in early childhood literacy skills after the literacy childhood intervention. This research also found that parental involvement in supporting children's literacy significantly positively impacts early childhood literacy development. The findings of this research emphasize the importance of literacy education in early childhood as an effort to overcome the literacy gap. By involving parents and caregivers in supporting children's literacy, literacy education programs can be more effective in forming a strong literacy foundation in the early stages of a child's life.

INTRODUCTION

Linguistically literacy comes from the word "*Literatus*" which means "one who learns". So literacy can be said to be "very close to the process of reading and writing". While literacy can also be interpreted as "a person's language ability (listening, speaking, reading and writing) to communicate in different ways according to their goals" (Sari & Pujiono, 2017)(Darwanto et al., 2022). Literacy is the ability to access, understand, and use something intelligently through various activities, including reading, viewing, listening, writing, and speaking. The School Literacy Movement is a comprehensive effort to make schools a learning organization whose citizens are lifelong literate through public involvement

(Zulela, 2012)(Primary, 2022). Education in Indonesia continues to experience changes that bring advances in science and technology, such as the implementation of literacy activities for students (Rohandini et al., 2022). The purpose of literacy includes: helping to increase one's knowledge through reading activities, helping to increase understanding in making conclusions from the information read, increasing critical assessment of a writing (written work), helping to grow one's good ethics, increasing personality values, to improving the quality of time use (Admin Sevima, 2020). The benefits of literacy are: increasing word differences, optimizing brain performance, acquiring new knowledge, improving interpersonal skills, improving verbal skills, improving

focus power analysis, to improving word stringing and writing (Darwanto et al., 2022). The trust that teachers have in teaching literacy is of course very crucial in helping children achieve their literacy potential. One study revealed that the trust that teachers have in literacy learning can affect the practice and development of children's literacy (Al-Maadadi & Ihmeideh, 2016) (Anggraini et al., 2021). Literacy education in early childhood is a key aspect in the formation of a strong educational foundation throughout life. Although the importance of literacy in the early stages of life has been widely recognized, there are still significant challenges in ensuring that every child has access to quality literacy education. Especially in environments with limited resources and accessibility, gaps in children's literacy development can occur, having a long-term impact on their ability to learn and reach their full potential. In reality, the literacy rate in Indonesia is still very low. This is shown in the survey results which place Indonesia in the 62nd position out of 70 countries (Utami L. D., 2021)(Darwanto et al., 2022). Children who acquire optimal literacy skills early on have better cognitive development, expand vocabulary, expand knowledge, and learn more new things than children who do not receive literacy support. This influence is also seen in language and speaking skills which will automatically result in good socialization skills. When facing children, there is one condition that

must be considered, namely the age of children, for preschoolers this is a critical stage that becomes the foundation for optimal literacy development. Children at this age are actually developing early literacy skills, including the ability to read, understand, write, and count. The process of introducing literacy skills in preschoolers from an early age can also include direct interactions such as speaking, reading children's books, reading poetry. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the influence of literacy education on early childhood by paying attention to the main problems faced and exploring potential solutions to overcome them. The same problem was revealed in Suryaman's research (2015) that the ability to read, and solve literary and non-literary problems of Indonesian students is still inadequate (Son et al., 2023). The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of literacy education programs on early childhood literacy development and to highlight the importance of parental involvement in supporting their children's literacy. The theoretical foundation underlying this writing is based on theories of cognitive and social development of children, constructivist learning theories, and educational psychological theories that consider the role of environment and social interaction in the formation of literacy skills in early childhood. By understanding and digging deeper into the factors that influence the development of early childhood

literacy, it is hoped that this research can provide valuable insights for education practitioners and policy makers in an effort to improve literacy in the early stages of children's lives.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research methodology is a set of rules, activities, and procedures used by actors of a discipline. Methodology is also a theoretical analysis of a method or method. Research is a systematic investigation to increase a certain amount of knowledge, it is also a systematic and organized effort to investigate a particular problem that requires answers. According to Sugiyono (2013: 29), the research method is basically a scientific way to obtain data with certain purposes and uses. The nature of research can be understood by studying various aspects that exist in encouraging research (Ai, 1977)

In this study, the approach used was quantitative with a correlational research design. The type of data collected is primary data, which is obtained through direct observation and distribution of questionnaires to parents who are respondents. The main data source comes from the child's parents or guardians, while supporting data can be obtained from related literature. Data collection techniques were conducted through questionnaire surveys designed to measure the Education Level of early childhood literacy and their development. The data will then be analyzed using statistical techniques such as regression analysis to determine the relationship between literacy

education and child development. The variables in this study consist of independent variables, namely early childhood literacy education measured through questionnaire scores, and dependent variables, namely child development measured through early childhood development test scores adapted from standard instruments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Literacy skills have a significant influence on individual success. Good reading and writing skills can help understand both oral and written information. In life, mastery of literacy is very important to support the skills acquired. These skills can support each other if a person is proficient in reading and writing and can categorize information that can support success in life. In this context, one of the skills needed to become a trustworthy person is the ability to read and write. This means that reading and writing skills must be better than speaking skills. This study explores how literacy correlates with early childhood development. The types of literacy activities are very varied, not only including reading activities. According to Wiedarti (2016), literacy activities involve four basic abilities, namely; a) reading skills, b) writing skills, c) speaking skills, and d) listening skills. Another opinion that states that literacy requires not only reading and writing skills, but also critical thinking skills in evaluating knowledge in print, visual, digital and

auditory formats that are important for students' cognitive, states that it is expected to cope with students' emotions and psychomotors. This skill is called information literacy (Rohandini et al., 2022). Children are the next generation of the nation so they need the ability to read and write from an early age. To help children acquire comprehensive knowledge for the future, to prevent children from becoming people who have no knowledge or only minimal knowledge, to help children understand what is lacking knowledge and what is right to be able to distinguish what is not right, and if children are accustomed to reading then this can encourage growth and development in the world of education. Children's literacy skills and interest in reading in Indonesia are very low. Low interest in reading is caused by parents not instilling reading early. That's why kids nowadays don't want to read books. Children's lack of interest in reading and writing has a big impact. Literacy to obtain information without seeing the truth, reading existing information, clarifying in advance, and spreading the word will be very beneficial for the child's future. A literate child will see the information first and clarify it to avoid spreading fake news and misinformation. Therefore, it is necessary to instill a culture of reading and writing in children from an early age, and stimulate children's interest in reading to get used to reading until adulthood so that reading becomes a habit or hobby

for children, not an obsession or forcing children to read. Basic literacy is the basic ability to read, write, listen and count with the aim of optimizing one's ability to read, write, communicate and count (Indahningrum & lia dwi jayanti, 2020). Children aged 3 to 6 years are the time when children begin to develop improved cognitive, psychosocial, and physical motor skills. This stage is also called early childhood. At this age, adults can begin to teach children basic reading and writing skills that can be learned from the parent environment to preschool (preschool and kindergarten).

A. The Relationship Between Literacy Education and Child Development

"Literacy cultivation needs to be cultivated from an early age because in literacy skills, children will know the world around them through text or information so that they can adapt to their environment. In addition, children will also be able to think critically, develop new knowledge, be able to understand situations and conditions and will also direct their life goals in general," said Dr. Nur Ainy Fardana N MSi in the Ngobras event with UNAIR library on Thursday (27/3/2023). Childhood is often considered an important or sensitive period because most of the child's potential develops at this time and if not developed properly it will cause serious problems in children in the future. Childhood is often referred to as the "*Golden Age*" because there is still a lot of untapped potential that parents need to nurture.

Because they are still in their infancy, infants and toddlers can be encouraged or exposed to various activities that support literacy development. Most early childhood children like books for effective stimulation, children will enjoy reading. The results of the analysis showed a significant relationship between the level of literacy applied in early childhood and children's growth and development is very close. Early childhood literacy education provides a solid foundation for their development in various aspects, including language, cognitive, and social skills. Literacy helps children to understand and develop language skills, including vocabulary, reading, and comprehension. By introducing children to words and stories through other literacy activity books, children can learn to communicate effectively and expressively. Through literacy, children learn to understand abstract concepts, develop problem-solving skills, and increase their imagination and creativity. The process of reading and understanding texts helps children develop an understanding of the world around them. Literacy also helps develop children's social skills, such as the ability to interact with others, understand emotions, and show empathy. By reading stories about social figures and situations, children learn about social norms and build relationships with others. Thus, literacy at preschool age not only improves reading and writing skills but also plays

an important role in developing his personality, intelligence, and social skills. This makes it an integral part of effective and ongoing early childhood education.

B. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Literacy Education for Early Childhood Development

The role of parents in educating children to read and write from an early age is very important. First, society must be able to create an environment for raising children. In this case, parents should provide appropriate sources of information and encourage children to think about their feelings. Next, encourage your child to learn about the source of the book, for example by taking it to the library or bookstore. It can also increase their interest in reading and introduce them to resources outside of the device. Third, parents should be role models for their children. Parents need to set a good example to the child on how to filter information. Some activities that can be done to develop children's literacy skills include preschool-age children can be asked to express their thoughts in words to get used to hearing vocabulary. When a child starts talking, parents must be able to listen to what they say. There are several factors that can support or hinder the effectiveness of literacy education on child development in all aspects.

1. Supportive home environment.

A home environment rich in reading and opportunities to read with parents can greatly increase a child's love of literacy

2. Competent educator. The involvement of competent and trained educators in literacy

teaching can significantly encourage children's development in reading and writing.

3. Access to a wide range of readings. Ease of access to books, magazines, and other reading at home, school, and library can enrich children's literacy experience.
4. Partner with parents. A good partnership between schools and parents to encourage children's interest and literacy and enhance learning in both environments.
5. Use technology wisely.

Such learning apps and e-books can provide additional resources and tools to support literacy learning.

The inhibiting factors include

1. Limited access.
Lack of access to reading materials and literacy resources can hinder children's literacy development, especially in children living in remote or low-income areas
2. Lack of parental involvement.
Lack of parental support and involvement in children's literacy learning can reduce children's motivation and interest in reading and writing.
3. Lack of facilities and infrastructure. Such as adequate school libraries and internet access can limit children's access to existing literacy resources
4. Inappropriate content.
Reading content that is not in accordance with children's

interests and comprehension levels can decrease the effectiveness of children's literacy learning

5. Technology challenges.

While technology can be a useful tool in literacy, challenges such as limited access to or addiction to devices can hinder healthy learning.

Strategies to improve literacy in schools and homes should include more reading. Getting children used to love reading is not an easy thing, especially children's interests are very diverse. However, providing varied types of reading based on children's interests can be a good solution to increase interest in reading activities (Nurjani, 2018) (Rohandini et al., 2022).

C. Implications of Literacy for Early Childhood Development

The meaning of implication according to KBBI is involvement or circumstances involved. Citing books *Implications of Managing Assets: Public Sector Financial Performance Financial Report of the Regional Government of Southeast Sulawesi Province* (2023) by Azaluddin, Implication is a consequence or direct result of the findings of a scientific study. Another understanding of implications according to experts is a conclusion or final result of findings on a study. According to Gruner in Wiratsiwi (2020), there are three strategies that can be used by teachers in improving their students' reading and writing skills, namely habituation, development, and learning (Rohandini et al., 2022) Below is a chart of

strategies teachers can use to improve students' reading and writing skills:



Figure 1. Habituation of Teaching Development

Based on the diagram above, we can illustrate how strategies can be applied by teachers to students to improve literacy as follows:

- a. **Habituation.** Reading routine in 15 minutes In literacy habits applied at preschool age have a significant impact on children's growth and development including reading books with children can build a positive relationship between books and readers, expand their vocabulary, improve language skills and stimulate their imagination, help build a strong foundation in language learning and help children respond to the world of writing and writing

positive and open opportunities for continued academic and personal success in the future.

- b. **Development.** Through the development of comprehensive and sustainable strategies and programs, the positive implications of literacy on early childhood development can be amplified. This helps ensure that every child has equal access to quality education and equal opportunities to reach their full potential in life.
- c. **Learning.** The implications of literacy in learning encompass various aspects that affect how children learn and develop. The integration of literacy into the curriculum can help to ensure that language learning and literacy are not just limited to subjects, but integrated into a variety of subjects and learning activities, with the development of critical thinking skills can strengthen children's analytical as well as improve problem-solving and decision-making skills. By effectively applying literacy in learning, children can develop the skills necessary for success in Education and their future lives. This creates an inclusive, challenging and meaningful learning environment for all children.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is that literacy in early childhood has a significant influence on its development. By improving literacy,

children can see improvements in various aspects of their abilities, such as improved language and cognitive skills because literacy plays an important role in cognitive and language formation at an early age. Children who are exposed to books, stories, and verbal interactions

tend to have better language skills. Critical thinking skills also tend to improve as reading and writing skills allow for better processing of information. Literacy can enrich children's imagination and increase creativity, this helps develop creative thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, which are important in the learning process. Through literacy can also form emotional and social

connections because through reading and writing children can develop empathy, understand differences, and communication skills that are important for socializing. Its practical significance is the need to integrate literacy into the initial curriculum and support parents and educators in creating an environment that supports children's literacy development.

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