



Analysis of Gender Based Reading Interest Index for High School Students at West Sumbawa Regency in 2021

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to analyze the reading interest index, inhibiting factors and efforts to increase reading interest in high school students equivalent in West Sumbawa Regency. The research approach used exploratory descriptive and Field Research with survey methods. The population of this study consisted of 1,754 students spread over 21 schools, with the purposive sampling technique and the numbers were calculated using the Slovin formula, so the total sample was 325 students. The instruments used to collect research data were non-test instruments in the form of questionnaires, interviews and literature reviews. The research data were then analyzed by categorizing the reading interest index. The results showed that: 1) High school students equivalent in West Sumbawa district with Gender Women have a higher interest in reading than men, but the index of reading interest was still in the "moderate" category; 2) High school students and equivalent in Brang Rea, Jereweh and Sekongkang Sub-districts have the highest reading interest index than other sub-districts, but the reading index in the three sub-districts is in the "moderate" category; 3) The inhibiting factors for increasing students' reading interest are internal and external factors, namely internal factors including self-motivation and activity/busyness, while external factors are the environment, facilities and infrastructure, and lack of education; 4) The concrete efforts that have been made by the West Sumbawa Regency Government to increase interest in reading are the establishment of the "Pemasyarakatan Gemar Membaca bagi Siswa dan Masyarakat di Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat" several years ago but it has not been going well so it needs optimization so that the objectives of this program can be achieved.

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Introduction

The quality of reading determines the existence of a nation. Nations that have low reading quality will experience backwardness (Maharani, 2016). Including for the Indonesian people, interest in reading is highly demanded by all parties to be developed so that backwardness are not experienced by our nation, as stated in the National Goals contained in the Preamble of Constitutions 1945, namely to educate the nation's life.

The "interest" it expresses behavior. Interest is not innate, but interest is a trait that can be achieved with effort, learning and developing it (Djamarah, 2011), while reading is the nature of a comprehensive work, starting from language competence, taste, memory, experiment, cognitive, mind and other. Reading is not only getting symbols in writing, but connecting the readings that have been read with various concepts, previous experiences, and insights that the reader has. In the end, reading interest becomes a will that grows in the heart



at the core of reading that can spur reading activities. The Director General of Primary and Secondary Education added that interest in reading is a person's effort to fulfill his desire to carry out reading activities (Irianto, 2014). In reading interest, you should know 4 parts, first, the desire to build the initiative. Second, the interest in the response and the immediacy of reading. Third, attention to the parameters of concentration and thorough. Fourth, involvement with tenacious and willing parameters (Safari, 2003 *in* Maharani, 2017)

The obligation to find solutions for the Indonesian people regarding the low interest in reading must be carried out immediately. This is reinforced by the latest online newspaper, *Menara 62*, which released UNESCO data in 2020 which noted the index of interest in reading for the Indonesian people was still at a very concern level where the index was at 0.001%, this comparison was the same as that of 1000 Indonesian people, but only 1 who had a hobby of reading (<https://menara62.com/unesco-minat-baca-masyarakat-indonesia-masih-sangat-rendah>). In addition, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) describes our country's literacy rate at position 64 out of 72 countries. Most Littered Nation in the world statistics from Central Connecticut State University in March 2016, Indonesia's position was 60 out of 61 countries.

Not much different, the reading interest rate in West Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province based on the study of Reading Interest Analysis in West Sumbawa Regency (KSB) in 2017 also showed that the level of public interest in reading is in a low or low position. Data from the average percentage of reading interest analysis results were 2.55% in a year (Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat, 2021).

Therefore, it is very necessary to analyze reading interest in West Sumbawa Regency, especially for students who are the nation's next generation. Especially high school students (SMA) equivalent aged between 16-19 years and classified as teenagers and have a high sense of curiosity as a result of the development of age and the environment. The psychological condition of a teenager moves from childhood both in terms of cognitive, physical and psychosocial. In his statement, Piaget explained that students at the high school level were students who experienced the development of the knowledge side (Papalia, et al, 2018).

In addition, this reading interest really needs to be improved considering the low interest in reading in Indonesia, and in West Sumbawa Regency in particular, so that we can produce a golden generation to face the development of science and technology in the future. Increasing interest in reading really needs to be done so that our human resources can increase (Yoni, 2020). In addition, interest in reading is important because it can create a literate generation (Muslims, 2018) and the awareness that reading is one way to learn for life (Nasrullah, et al, 2021). So the purpose of this research is to analyze the index of reading interest, inhibiting factors and efforts to increase reading interest of high school students equivalent in West Sumbawa Regency. The expectation from this research is to become a reference source for the government, academics and other parties in West Sumbawa Regency that the low interest in reading in West Sumbawa Regency needs attention and must be evaluated for the inhibiting factors so that in the future improvement efforts can be made to increase interest in reading. read especially for high school students and the people of West Sumbawa Regency in general.

Research Method

This study uses an exploratory descriptive approach and Field Research by examining facts and field data as well as the application of relevant policies and analysis of primary and secondary data. This research was conducted using a survey method to collect quantitative

and qualitative data. The population used in this research was high school students in West Sumbawa Regency in 2021, totaling 1,754 students and spread across 21 schools (Dapodik Kemdikbud, 2021). Meanwhile, the research sampling technique was carried out by purposive sampling (Arikunto, 2012) and the number was calculated as 325 based on the slovin formula (Sugiyono, 2018).

The instruments used to collect research data were 1) Non-test instruments in the form of a questionnaire developed by researchers and have been tested for validity and reliability before being used (Sugiyono, 2019); 2) Interview Instruments (Basrowi & Suwandi, 2008); and 3) Literature Review Instruments. The data collected in this study were quantitative data about the index of reading interest of senior high school students in West Sumbawa Regency which was obtained using a non-test technique (reading interest questionnaire). In addition, the respondent's answers were also deepened using semi-structured interviews to obtain the information needed for detailed analysis and discussion.

The data obtained from the Questionnaire instrument were then analyzed and grouped into the Reading Interest Index Category with 3 Index Scales. The categorization of this reading interest index was made by researchers using a scoring technique. The Student Reading Interest Index Scale in this research is as follows:

Table 1. Student Reading Interest Index Scale

Scale	Category
< 2	Low
2 – 2,9	Medium
3	High

Results and Discussion

The results of this study were divided into 2 groups, namely the reading interest of high school students based on gender groups and sub-district groups. The results of this study were obtained using a questionnaire instrument that was valid and reliable. The reading interest index of the two groups will be presented in the following diagram.

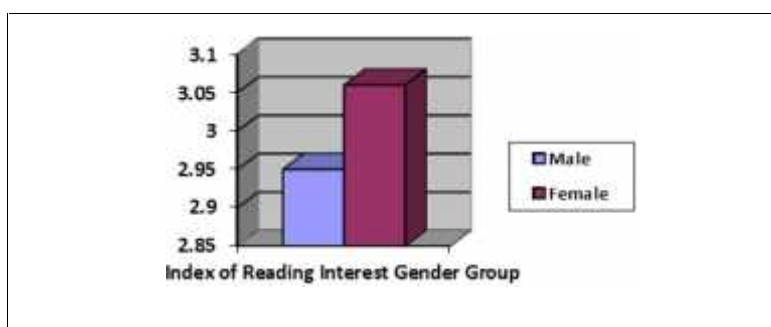


Figure 1. Index of Reading Interest of High School Students Equivalent at KSB Gender Group

Based on the results of the data analysis of students reading interest presented in the diagram above, the reading interest of equivalent high school students in West Sumbawa Regency is at 2.95 in the Male group in the "Medium" category and Female in the "High" category at 3.06. In other words, "Female" are more likely to show a high interest in reading than "Male".

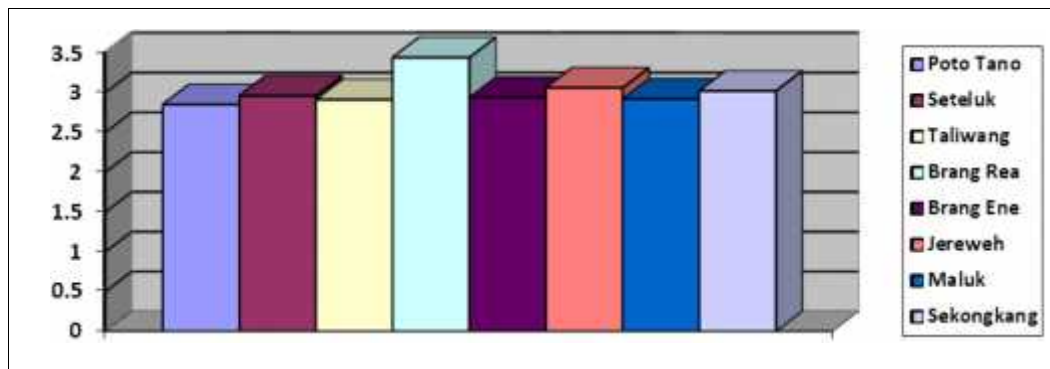


Figure 2. Index of Reading Interest of High School Students Equivalent at KSB Sub-District Group

Based on the diagram data above, it can be seen that the increase in the reading interest index of high school students equivalent occurred at three sub-district locations, namely Brang Rea, Jereweh and Sekongkang. Meanwhile, other areas such as Poto Tano, Seteluk, Taliwang, Brang Ene, Maluku are in the "medium" category. Implicitly, this figure leads to the conclusion that the index of reading interest of high school students in the equivalent based on the sub-district group category is imbalanced. So, it is hoped that efforts to strengthen several programs have been carried out, especially by the Regional Library of West Sumbawa Regency.

Cultivating and developing interest in reading is a full of effort. In making the behavior of reading pleasure, a person initially raises curiosity in getting to know reading and then performs reading activities. In addition, good behavior related to reading must also be cultivated. For example, what types of reading can attract someone's interest in reading, the availability of reading facilities in the surrounding environment, as well as activities that are carried out continuously in the context to grow and develop a reading culture. Therefore, the aspect of reading interest once again cannot be separated from all kinds of efforts that want to be made to grow and develop reading behavior itself, especially the efforts of the school including teachers, librarians, and even the local government (Kasiyun, 2015). Because it is undeniable, the rapid development of science and technology has become one of the main factors in the decline in students' reading interest, students prefer to see smartphones rather than having to read to the library, in other words the increase in smartphone use reduces students' reading interest (Etnanta and Irhandayaningsih, 2017).

Based on the results of field studies obtained by interviewing techniques, there are several factors inhibiting the increase in public interest in reading in West Sumbawa Regency, namely Internal Factors and External Factors. Internal factors include self-motivation and activities/busy activities outside of work/productive time (Sari and Lisa, 2018). Interest in reading is closely related to how students can spend time in reading activities. With a high interest in reading, students will certainly spend a lot of time reading on lesson break time or school hours. Generally, senior high school students in West Sumbawa Regency have indicate positive motivation to increase their reading interest. Unfortunately, few of them are self-motivated in doing reading activities lessons breaks time or during school holidays.

In addition, external factors that hinder students' interest in reading are the environment, supporting facilities, and lack of education to increase interest in reading (Middleton, 2011). The environment here is defined as the habits of students at home and in their free time with family, usually student's family prefer to make conversation even play smartphones at home. Khairuddin (2013) explain Parent's education for their children is part



of growing interest in reading. This habit is then carried over to school and can reduce students' interest in reading. In addition, supporting facilities are an urgent cause of increasing interest in reading, how do students want to like reading if book collections, library rooms and library conveniences are not much (Azrin, 2017), this is certainly a concern of various parties, especially schools and local governments. The school is one of the triggers for increasing student interest in reading, because the school is the one who handle directly with students, one of the efforts usable is digital books (Ruddamayanti, 2019), and the use of learning models and methods that require students to read and understand what to read.

Efforts to increase one's interest in reading cannot be hand over to the family, society, or just educational institutions. Family, society, and educational institutions have an important role in increasing students' and community's reading interest. All of them need to work together. Teachers and librarians have important role in increasing reading interest. Students should be given examples. If teachers and librarians do not have a strong passion for reading, then they will not be able to their responsibilities in developing reading interest (Kusiyan, 2015).

In fact, the government has also made many efforts to increase interest in reading, such as the Gerakan Literasi Sekolah (GLS), but in its implementation there are still several problems that still need to be re-evaluated, including (1) lack of awareness of teachers, (2) difficulty in obtaining enrichment books (3) there are still teachers who are lazy to read, (4) the literacy culture is not implemented by the teacher, and (5) the school's finances are less off available (Wanelly, 2019). In addition, the West Sumbawa Regency Government has also made concrete efforts to increase reading interest, Proqram namely is the “*Pemasyarakatan Gemar Membaca bagi Siswa dan Masyarakat di Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat*” few years ago, but this Program but this program has not going well so it needs optimization so that the objectives of this program can be achieved.

The reading interest of senior high school students in KSB is still relatively low and really needs special attention from various parties, because change does not work alone, so it needs cooperation from all of us so that students' and the community's interest in reading shows an increase with various efforts that we can do, namely from teachers librarians, academics, local government, central government, and other parties.

Conclusion

The conclusion from this research is :

- 1) The reading interest index for high school students in West Sumbawa Regency is classified as “high” with an index of 3.06 and the “Male” gender group is classified as “medium”, which is 2.95.
- 2) The increase in the reading interest index of high school students equivalent occurred at three sub-district locations, namely Brang Rea, Jereweh and Sekongkang. While other areas such as Poto Tano, Seteluk, Taliwang, Brang Ene, Maluk are in the "medium" category.
- 3) Inhibiting factors in the reading interest both internally and externally. The causes from within include self-motivation and activity, while external causes are the environment, facilities and infrastructure, and lack of education.
- 4) A concrete effort from the West Sumbawa Regional Government to increase interest in reading is the establishment of the Program “*Pemasyarakatan Gemar Membaca bagi Siswa dan Masyarakat di Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat*” few years ago, but it has not going well so it needs to be optimized so that the purpose of this program can be achieved



Recommendation

Some recommendation for following up on research and future improvements are:

- 1) For the school, to more often provide education to students about the importance of reading and apply strategies that can increase students' interest reading, such as interesting socializations about the importance of reading to support the learning process and its benefits for the future of students, both from school and also in collaboration with the Education Office, and the West Sumbawa Regency Archives Service.
- 2) For the district government of West Sumbawa, expected:
 - a) Provide proper reading facilities and infrastructure for students so that students are motivated to read, such as the availability of a proper collection of books too and a safe, comfortable and attractive library.
 - b) Need to optimize life skills activities in the various courses as an applicative form after reading certain library sources, such as computer courses, English, cooking, electronics, fun abacus in the library.
 - c) Effectiveness is needed from the existence of cultural art galleries, so that many users can learn about the culture that develops in the community, and training of librarian staff
 - d) An integrated online library service system is one of technological progress that must be pursued for the development of a library institution whose role is to provide information resources.

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