



The Role of Reading Corner on The Effectiveness of Students' Reading Interest

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Abstract

The function of reading corners in boosting pupils' interest in reading is covered in this article. Students in the fourth grade served as the research subjects for this study, which was carried out in an elementary school. Data is gathered using interviews and observation in this qualitative descriptive method. Students' interest in reading is much increased when reading corners are implemented, according to the study's findings. Students' reading time intensity increases as a result of feeling content and at ease when participating in reading activities. An aesthetically pleasing reading nook with a diverse selection of books can foster an environment that encourages literacy-related activities. In order to establish an atmosphere that fosters students' enthusiasm in reading, this study highlights the significance of assistance from a variety of sources, including parents and instructors. The purpose of this article is to ascertain the relationship between literacy and sixth-grade students' reading comprehension at SDN 04 Banding Agung. This study employs a qualitative methodology that includes a descriptive qualitative approach and techniques for gathering data, such as documentation and observation. The findings of the study indicate that: (1) students' interest in reading is significantly influenced by the reading corner; (2) having a reading corner in the classroom facilitates students' access to reading materials from within the classroom; and (3) students would rather read books in the reading corner than in the library. In order to assist students grasp the content more thoroughly and to improve teaching standards in schools, this study makes recommendations for a curriculum that places a greater emphasis on enhancing literacy and students' enthusiasm in reading in the classroom.

Keywords: reading corner, reading interest, literacy, education, students.

INTRODUCTION

One of the biggest issues facing education today is getting children more interested in reading. In this regard, classroom reading nooks or corners stand out as a creative approach that fosters a reading culture while simultaneously making books easily accessible. By encouraging kids to participate in reading activities, the reading nook helps them become more interested and proficient readers. Studies indicate that the establishment of reading nooks can greatly enhance pupils' enthusiasm for reading, particularly in primary school, where literacy is established.

With a diverse selection of books that align with their interests, the reading area is intended to be a welcoming and appealing space for students. The reading corner encourages students to include reading into their everyday routine by offering convenient and nearby access. Reading exercises that are included into the curriculum, such reading for fifteen minutes before class begins, have also been successful in fostering this beneficial behavior. Students who use this method not only learn to read but also comprehend the value of literacy in daily life.

Additionally, the reading corner serves purposes beyond just boosting interest in reading. Teachers can more successfully incorporate reading activities into the curriculum by using the reading nook as a teaching tool. As a result, the reading corner becomes a crucial instrument for developing a robust literacy culture in schools. However, in order for the reading area to work as best it can, issues like low student excitement and a lack of pertinent book collections must also be addressed.

This article will go into greater detail about how reading corners can boost students' enthusiasm in reading and improve their literacy. We will comprehend how reading corners can serve as a catalyst for constructive modifications in kids' reading habits by examining a number of studies and real-world experiences in the field.

Students' enthusiasm in reading has become a crucial issue in the quickly changing information age. Even though technology has made it simple to acquire a variety of knowledge, many kids would rather spend their time on social media and devices than reading books. This occurrence suggests that younger people's enthusiasm in reading has significantly decreased, which may have a detrimental effect on their cognitive and literacy development. As

a result, initiatives are required to boost pupils' interest in reading, one of which is the provision of encouraging spaces like reading nooks.

One tactic used in schools to establish a favorable atmosphere for reading activities is the creation of reading corners. The goal of this idea is to give children easy access to and enjoyment of reading activities by creating a dedicated area with a variety of engaging reading resources. According to research, having reading nooks can encourage students to become more interested in reading. Furthermore, organized reading exercises, such reading for fifteen minutes prior to class, might support the development of good reading habits.

Several research questions come up in this context: What impact does a reading corner have on pupils' interest in reading? What are the elements that affect how well the reading corner works to spark students' interest in reading? What are some ways to make the activities in the reading nook more engaging for students? The primary emphasis of this study will be these inquiries.

Investigating and evaluating how reading corners can boost kids' interest in reading is the aim of this study. Additionally, this study seeks to pinpoint the essential components that contribute to reading corners' efficacy and student attraction. It is intended that by comprehending these elements, innovative approaches to creating reading nooks that are better for raising student literacy would be discovered.

It is anticipated that this research will benefit the field of education, especially in initiatives to boost kids' enthusiasm in reading. The findings of this study should also serve as a guide for teachers and school officials as they create literacy initiatives that are more successful. It is anticipated that as students' enthusiasm in reading grows, both the standard of instruction and their literacy abilities will significantly improve. This essay will therefore go into great detail about how reading nooks can increase students' interest in reading as well as the tactics that can be used to make the most of them in classrooms.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach. A research strategy that emphasizes a thorough comprehension of social, cultural, and human behavior phenomena is qualitative approaches. This approach explores complicated meanings, experiences, and viewpoints using non-numerical data, including text, photographs, audio, and video.

Understanding how visual literacy is used in practice, how students engage with visual resources, and how students interact with one another in that setting are the goals of this observation. And The collection of instructional resources utilized in the class, such as images, graphs, and text with visual components, is referred to as documentation. Furthermore, field notes that chronicle the researcher's views and thoughts during the observation process are also included in the documentation. Following the collection of observation data, verbatim transcription was completed. The observation notes were carefully studied and examined to look for proof of how visual literacy works in reading instruction and how it affects students' reading comprehension. The observation note transcripts were then grouped based on the components pertinent to this investigation.

Sugiyono (2011) claims that qualitative research techniques, which are grounded in post-positivist philosophy, are employed to examine human behavior in uncontrollable situations (Silmi, 2017). This is consistent with Creswell's definition, which says that qualitative research differs from typical quantitative methodologies in terms of data gathering, analysis, interpretation, and report writing. With an emphasis on direct interaction between the researcher and participants, this research typically gathers data in the field, where participants encounter the topics under study (Creswell, 2013).

Results and Discussion

A reading corner is a designated area or alcove in a school setting that is intended to spark pupils' interest in reading books or other forms of literature. It is anticipated that the existence of reading nooks will boost pupils' enthusiasm for reading, which will impact the growth of their literacy abilities. This article discusses how reading corners can boost kids' interest in reading and the elements that contribute to their success. According to research, schools can boost children's interest in reading, particularly in elementary school, by implementing reading corners. By making a variety of books easily accessible, the reading corner encourages pupils to read more. As an illustration, at SDN 04 Banding Agung, Because of the available book selection and discussion activities, kids who use the reading area report feeling more interested in reading.

A number of elements contribute to the reading corner's success, including student interest and the principal's and instructors' support. But there are drawbacks as well, such the reading corner's less appealing physical state and the lack of variety in the books.

Although students' interest in reading was initially low, a study conducted at MI Taufiqiyah Semarang revealed that the establishment of a reading nook expanded the library's use and made books easier to reach, which in turn increased students' interest in reading in general (Firdausi, 2020). Reading corners help students become more literate while also boosting their enthusiasm in reading. Students gain literacy and improve their comprehension of material when a reading corner is available.

According to research, reading exercises in reading corners aid in students' comprehension of the course materials and the growth of their literacy abilities (Maryanti, 2022). A number of actions can be carried out to optimize the advantages of the reading nook, including arranging book exchanges among friends, setting out specific reading time, and encouraging students to discuss the books they have read. To increase pupils' motivation to read, it's also critical to select novels that they find engaging (Janawati & Riantini, 2024). Numerous research' findings demonstrate that reading nooks not only increase not only pique readers' interest but also improve their comprehension of the course content. Language proficiency in both English and Indonesian has improved among students who regularly attend the reading corner. Every classroom from grade 1 to grade 6 at SDN 04 Banding Agung has a reading area. Because students can read books in the classroom during free periods or breaks without having to visit the library, the reading corners facilitate children's book reading. Students benefit greatly from reading exercises in the reading nook.



The kids of SDN 04 Banding Agung are reading books in the classroom reading nook as part of their regular routine, as can be seen in the image above. During their second break each day, they routinely complete this reading exercise, reading aloud and having discussions. One of the main advantages of having a reading nook is this.

Additionally, reading exercises in the reading corner foster students' creative and analytical abilities while assisting them in developing a deeper understanding of the course content. The following are some advantages and functions of the reading corner:

Students can easily access a variety of reading materials at the reading nook. Storybooks, encyclopedias, instructive comics, periodicals, and journals that are engaging and appropriate for the children's age and learning requirements can all be found at the reading corner. Students are more inclined to read in accordance with their interests now that a variety of reading resources are available. Students visit the reading corner more frequently since it is convenient and close to the classroom. By making a variety of books easily accessible, the reading corner serves as a space that encourages reading activities. The reading corner plays a crucial function in improving students' access to literature in the educational setting. This consequently improves their reading habits and level of interest. Reading nooks are typically positioned in easily accessible school spaces, such as classrooms. Students can now access books without having to visit the library, which might be far away or have limited hours. Reading corners allow students to read whenever they have free time, which increases the frequency of their reading. In 2022, Rumakaway et al. A wide variety of literature, such as textbooks, novels, comics, and magazines, are frequently placed in reading nooks. Students from different backgrounds and reading levels are drawn to this diversity. Students are more likely to read when they have access to a large variety of reading materials because they can find books that suit their needs and interests.

Typically, reading nooks are created with a cozy, welcoming vibe. An inviting environment that makes kids feel at home reading can be created with a reading nook arrangement that includes cozy seats or bean bags, eye-catching décor, and sufficient lighting. Students are more likely to spend time reading in a tidy and attractive reading nook because it helps them feel valued. An environment that encourages reading activities is produced by a stylish and cozy reading corner design. A reading nook that is tastefully furnished with cozy chairs can help students feel at home and encourage them to stay. Students may become more interested in reading and visit the reading nook more frequently in this comfortable setting (Rumakaway et al., 2022). Regular Reading. Establishing a daily reading routine is one strategy to boost pupils' interest in reading. One tool for developing that habit is the reading nook. Students will become accustomed to making time for reading if there is a fixed routine that forces them to visit the reading nook. Additionally, rather than being a tedious duty, the reading activities done at the reading corner might develop into a fun routine.

The development of kids' literacy skills is closely linked to their strong enthusiasm in reading. Reading a variety of books on a regular basis helps pupils improve their vocabulary, reading comprehension, and horizons. With a variety of reading resources tailored to their level of ability, the reading nook gives pupils the chance to improve their literacy.

In order to increase the reading corner's usefulness, many schools provide a variety of events that encourage students to visit it more frequently, like book discussions, reading contests, or making posters about the books they have read. Active students are encouraged to read more books by these activities, which offer challenges and rewards.

Teachers are crucial in making sure that reading corners effectively boost kids' interest in reading in addition to providing sufficient amenities. In addition to introducing engaging books and assigning reading-related assignments or projects, teachers can invite students to attend the reading area. Students will be more inclined to use the reading corner as an interesting learning resource if teachers actively participate in its management. When it comes to creating and overseeing reading nooks, teachers are also crucial. They can help kids choose the right books and incorporate reading into their everyday education. Students are more inclined to use the reading nook as a resource for learning when teachers encourage them to do so.

Boredom and a lack of engaging reading material present the biggest obstacles to boosting reading enthusiasm. By offering a selection of books that are regularly updated and in line with the students' changing interests and requirements, a well-run reading nook can get beyond these challenges. Additionally, a supportive setting, like a serene and cozy setting, will lessen distractions that might make it difficult for kids to concentrate on reading.

CONCLUSION

All things considered, the reading corner greatly contributes to students' growing enthusiasm in reading. The reading nook can encourage good reading habits by offering convenient access to a wide range of fascinating books, establishing a cozy setting, and offering a number of entertaining activities. Additionally, the reading corner will be more effective if teachers actively participate in its management. It is intended that by creating a reading area, kids' enthusiasm for reading will grow, resulting in improved literacy and more optimal intellectual growth.

Students' interest in reading is boosted in large part by the presence of reading corners. It is intended that with the help of the school environment and the application of suitable techniques for overseeing the reading nook, It is hoped that pupils' enthusiasm for reading will keep growing. The study's findings indicate that "The reading corner aims to introduce students to a variety of reading materials to be used as learning media" (Firdausi, 2020). Students' interest in reading is significantly influenced by a well-designed reading area in terms of comfort, aesthetics, range of books, and interactive activities. Schools can boost student participation in reading activities and improve their overall literacy abilities by fostering a positive and stimulating environment.

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