

# The Influence of the Langkat Smart Community Movement on Increasing Children's Interest in Reading in Langkat Regency

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**Abstract.** This study aims to determine the influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in increasing children's interest in reading in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency by using a descriptive quantitative approach. The sample in this study were 30 children. The data collection tool used is a questionnaire, with data analysis techniques using simple linear regression and hypothesis testing. The findings of this study based on data processing with simple linear regression obtained linear regression equation is  $= 51.778 + 0.744x$ , with the product moment correlation  $r_{xy} = 0.744$ .  $r_{count} > r_{table}$  is  $0.744 > 0.306$  and the result of  $t_{count} > t_{table}$  is  $5.891 > 1.697$  then the hypothesis is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is "The Influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency.

**Keywords:** Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community and Children's Reading Interest

## 1 Introduction

Indonesia is one of the developing countries that continue to try to catch up with the developed countries in the world. Human development is one of the best ways to compete and be recognized by other countries by creating superior human resources. Excellent human resources are not just created without the efforts of various parties, positive habits, and a culture of hard work; Indonesian people are famous for their people's habits who still like to spend time just chatting about things that are not important compared to reading. Very easy to meet for example, in public places such as on public transportation, at stations, bus stops, and others, we often encounter many people spending their time chatting or conversing, playing games, some even doing nothing, and not infrequently many we meet many people to the library not to read but to chat. Very sad. This is in line with the opinion of Nafisah, A (2014), who said that a developing society is synonymous with storytelling culture compared to spending time studying and reading.

Based on a survey conducted by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2019 regarding literacy levels, it was stated that Indonesia was ranked 62 out of 70 countries studied (Larasati Dyah Utami. 2021). This means that the Indonesian people have a very low reading culture,

which automatically shows that the Indonesian people also have a low interest in reading, which impacts their low human development index, low innovation, and low community competitiveness. The low interest in reading is closely related to the poverty rate. According to the Head of the North Sumatra Library and Archives Service, Harlen Purba explained that in general, interest in reading in Indonesia, especially North Sumatra, is still low, especially among students or university students, measured by the number of pages they read, and how many books a day the people of North Sumatra read.

In line with the position of North Sumatra being ranked 18th among other provinces, where ACEH and NTB are above North Sumatra, where previously they were in a lower position (Antara Sumut, 2021). If this is left for a long time, it will give birth to the left behind the generation and impact the next generation. On the other hand, reading will increase knowledge and hone skills in improving the community's economic life. Reading and writing must be inculcated from an early age so that we can catch up and progress in several other countries, for that we need efforts from various parties, both the government and the efforts of the community organizations themselves. So far, we adhere to an oral culture, not a written culture. As a result, reading and writing habits become weak. By fostering interest in reading from an early age, it is hoped that reading culture can also be improved.

In Langkat Regency, there are still villages with the criteria of underdeveloped villages. One of the factors that cause Langkat to lag behind other districts is the low level of education and interest in reading. The literacy rate of Langkat residents is currently only 10 percent; if you look at the total population of Langkat, which reaches 1.8 million people, it means that the number of people who read is around 100 thousand people. The government has made improvements in the service sector by making several programs to foster reading interest, but this has not been maximized and is in line with the program's objectives. This shows that the low interest in reading in Langkat is a phenomenon that encourages the desire of several community groups to participate in social and self-help participation to seek and overcome the problem of low interest in reading in the community. One of them is the Gerakan Langkat Pintar (GLP).

The Gerakan Langkat Pintar (GLP) is a community group that cares about reading interest and has a vision to create people with a reading culture. The Gerakan Langkat Pintar collaborates with other communities consisting of students from Langkat Regency who are concerned for their hometown to be the driving force in holding this social activity. The Gerakan Langkat Pintar is a continuation of the Langkat Inspiration Class Community. Class Inspiration is a social activity that focuses on assisting the government in increasing children's motivation to go to school and continue their education to a higher level.

This social activity is a derivative program of the Indonesian Teaching Movement and has been implemented in various cities/districts in Indonesia, all of which, when collected together, will be referred to as the Nusantara Inspiration Class. The Gerakan Langkat Pintar (GLP) is a non-profit reading community that aims to mobilize the community, especially children in Langkat, to have a high interest in reading, considering that Langkat is one of the districts that still has disadvantaged villages compared to other districts or cities in Sumatra. North. So the cultivation of a culture of reading interest in the Langkat community is very much needed. The GLP Reading Community has been running for a year and currently its activities start from Kwala Bingai Village which then continues to other sub-districts. Based on the background of the problem above, the author is

interested in researching how "The Influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar(GLP) in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency."

## **2 Method**

The research method used in this study is a descriptive method with a quantitative approach. The descriptive method provides a systematic, actual and accurate description of the facts, characteristics, and relationships between the phenomena being investigated. Based on this understanding, quantitative descriptive methods are very appropriate because this study will try to describe, describe, and analyze the Effect of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency. The population in this study were all children who were visitors to the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community Reading in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency which was then taken as a sample of 30 people using random sampling technique. This study uses a questionnaire as a research instrument with data analysis techniques using a simple linear regression test and hypothesis testing.

## **3 Result and Discussion**

### **Smart Langkat Movement Community**

The Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community is an independent social movement that focuses on calling for reading to build community resources, especially in Kwala Bingai, Langkat district. The background of this community being established is because of the low reading interest of the people in Langkat Regency, the lack of social institutions or communities that focus on growing people's interest in reading, and the mandate of the 1945 Constitution which is "to educate the nation" therefore reading, and instilling interest in reading is very important for the community to achieve an information literate society and a literate society who can seek, use and practice the information they need.

This community was founded on the initiative of Putri Nur Saraswati or better known as Putri Pule, a student of German Literature at UI who also came from Langkat to organize an educational activity together with other Langkat boys and girls visiting schools in Langkat and educating them. However, this routine educational activity turned out to be not enough, he finally decided to create an advanced community called the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community.

The Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community continues to develop and innovate to become a professional community, able to spread the spirit of spreading benefits with real actions and become a community that can educate the community, especially Langkat children to continue reading, willing to read and become a literate society.

### **Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community Programs**

Some of the programs that GLP has implemented include:

- a. Book Donation; is a program where the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Volunteers as facilitators collect books from people who are willing to donate books by direct delivery or through delivery services. This program is continuous (no time limit) the more book donations you get,

- the more children's interest in reading is formed. Usually, donors get information from social media or GLP Volunteers themselves.
- b. Read; This program is a routine program of the Smart Langkat Movement whose activities are not monotonous, only come to read and then go home. Activities include reading books, reading, and small games. This Reading Program also invites children to gain new knowledge and broad insights from volunteers about books, they are also allowed to borrow books. This reading activity is intended to make children want to read books, besides that, this is also because there are still many children who do not have reading books because books are still not a primary need in the Langkat community. The participants who participate in this activity are usually people who know information from social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and other social media. The participants in this activity are those who deliberately come to take part in this activity, some people are currently/already carrying out sports activities around the square and are interested in participating in this activity.
  - c. Wara Wiri; This program is an educational tourism activity for children in the smart Langkat movement community to see the historical horizon and feel the atmosphere of this country's diversity while learning outside their comfort zone in their area. The background of this program is the lack of facilities and infrastructure, remote access, and monotonous learning methods make it difficult for the nation's small lanterns to see this country's historical horizon and diversity.
  - d. GLP Cares; This program is an incidental fundraising program (occurring or carried out only on certain occasions or times) such as natural disasters or other donations. The activity of this program is to help repair damaged libraries in schools and areas that need assistance because the government may not have assisted them.

#### **Description of Research Result Data**

To complete the decryption of research data, a tendency test was conducted for each research variable categorized into 4 (four) categories of very good, good, good enough, not good. The complete calculation of the trend test of the research variables is in the appendix.

- a. Test the trend of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community

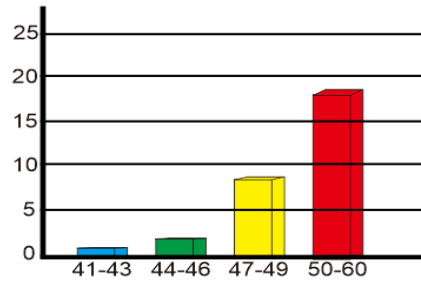
The results of the Community tendency test can be seen in Table 10

**Table 1.** Test the Tendency of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community

Group	Frequency	F relative	Category
>50	18	60 %	Very Good
47-49	8	30 %	Good
44-46	2	6,7 %	Fair
41-43	1	3,3 %	Poor
Total	30	100 %	

Based on the data in the table above, it can be explained that for the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community variable, the score is declared very good when it reaches > 50, totaling 18 people by 60%, the score is declared good when it reaches a value of 47-49 totaling 8 people by 30%, the score is declared sufficient good when it reaches a value of 44-46 totaling 2 people by 6.7%, the score is

declared unfavorable when it reaches a value of 41-43 totaling 1 person by 3.3% An overview of the tendency test of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in the following graphic form:



**Fig.1.** Histogram of the GLP Community Tendency Test (X)

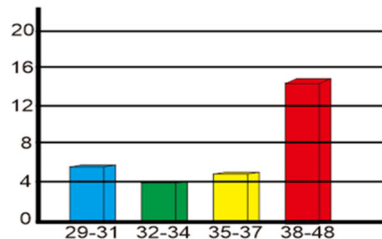
b. Test the tendency of children's reading interest

The results of testing the tendency of Children's Reading Interests can be seen in Table 11.

**Table 2.** Tendency Test for Children's Reading Interest

Group	Frequency	F relative	Category
>38	15	50 %	Very Good
35-37	5	16,7 %	Good
32-34	4	13,3 %	Fair
29-31	6	20 %	Poor
Total	30	100 %	

Based on the data in the table above, it can be explained that for the Children's Reading Interest variable, the score is declared very good when it reaches >38, totaling 15 people by 50%, the score is declared good when it reaches a value of 35-37 totaling 5 people by 16.7%, the score is declared quite good when it reaches a value of 32-34 totaling 4 people by 13.3%, the score is declared not good when it reaches a value of 29-31 totaling 6 people by 20%. The description of the tendency test for Children's Reading Interest in the following graphic form:



**Fig.2.** Histogram of Children's Reading Interest Tendency Test (Y)

### **Description of Data Analysis of the Influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in increasing Children's Reading Interest.**

To determine whether there is an influence in this study, the data analysis found by researchers in the field is carried out as follows.

#### **a. Simple Linear Regression**

To find out whether there is an influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in this study, a study was carried out using simple linear regression. The analysis is used to predict the value of the independent variable to increase and decrease. From the calculation results, it is known that the regression equation is  $Y = 51.77 + 0.744x$ . Thus, it can be concluded that there is an influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai.

#### **b. Hypothesis testing**

Hypothesis testing is carried out after knowing in advance the results of calculating the correlation coefficient of the variable X to Y. The correlation coefficient is tested for significance by using the t-test. The correlation coefficient of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community on Children's Reading Interest from the calculation results it is known that there is a positive correlation between the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community (X) and Children's Reading Interest (Y), meaning the greater the influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community, the greater the influence of Children's Reading Interest.

To find out whether the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community has a significant influence in increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai, a t-test was carried out, and the results of the calculations obtained the t-count > t table, namely  $5.891 > 0.306$ . while the magnitude of the contribution of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community Influence in Increasing Children's Reading Interest can be seen through the calculation of the determinants obtained a value of  $D = 55\%$ , meaning that the large or small increase in children's reading interest by 55% is influenced by the activities of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community while the remaining 45% is due to other factors which are not included in this analysis.

### **Discussion**

The discussion presented in this study is the findings and results of data management related to the answers to research questions that have been raised in the formulation of the problem, namely: Description of the State of Children's Reading Interest in the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency. Interest in Reading Children before participating in reading stall activities in Kwala Bingai did not like reading this because they spent the whole day at school, and when they came home, some played, and some took private lessons. Data from the Langkat district librarian confirm this. The intensity of student attendance for the kwala bingai village is dominated by teenagers who like to read. Some are looking for assignments and others.

For the presence of visitors, especially children, it is very rare to find. Whereas through reading, children will get information related to the content of the reading itself. In line with Harahap's opinion, F.I.N. et al. (2021) say that reading is an important activity in life that can renew knowledge. Children's reading interest after the Langkat Smart Community activity can be seen from the above data processing where the condition of children's reading interest in Kwala Bingai is already quite good; this can be seen from the questionnaire results distributed to 30 respondents. They were very enthusiastic about participating in the activities organized by the Gerakan Langkat Pintar

Community . Some of them did not really like reading. With the Langkat Smart Movement, they became diligent in reading, as evidenced by the presence of these children every week. As long as these activities provide satisfaction, their interest will remain. Noorika Retno Widuri's (2008) theory that activities (two-way communication) can be successful if they cause pleasure. There is a change in attitudes and actions. This theory is by the research results that the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community has increased Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai.

The Influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintarin Increasing Children's Interest in Reading in Kwala Bingai, Langkat Regency, from the observations of the researchers, the children were very happy to participate in the reading stall activities carried out by G.L.P. A person's interest can be seen in how he acts or behaves, starting from paying attention, observing, and listening when reading stall activities occur. From these activities, the child looks bored, bored, or even the child laughs and looks happy and listens carefully to what is said by the volunteer brother. Reading activities are carried out as a means to grow and increase interest in reading in children. The things that can be seen are as follows.

a. Intensity of Child Arrival in Reading Program

The intensity of the presence of these children can be said to be frequent because it can be seen from the attendance list that they attend every activity that takes place.

b. Children's interest in reading activities

From the description above, it is known that children are interested in the activities organized by the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community . This is because open reading and interesting activities in the Langkat area are still new. In addition, the attitude of children when participating in activities such as listening, listening, and asking questions proves that children are very enthusiastic and active. They experience positive changes in attitude, become more enthusiastic, and start to like reading.

Based on the research results, the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community affects increasing children's interest in reading through reading stalls. This can be seen from the reading implementation carried out by GLP. Children are very happy to participate in reading activities carried out by GLP. There was a change in the child's attitude and the action in the form of the intensity of the child's presence in participating in the reading activities carried out by the GLP. Children initially looked normal, but after participating in reading activities, the children looked happy and interested in borrowing books.

From the results of data analysis, it can be seen that the results of this study indicate a significant influence between the variables of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Increasing Children's Reading interests. The coefficient of determination is 0.550, which means that the influence of the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community (X) in increasing (Y) is 55%, and other variables outside of this study influence the rest. In the t-test, it is known that the tcount value is 5.891 and ttable is 1.697 with the provisions a significance level of 0.05 or 5%. Then, stating Ha is accepted as true. This means that there is a significant influence between the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai Langkat.

## 4 Conclusion

Reading activities that have been considered boring activities can change if done in the right way. In addition to the right way, support or motivation also greatly affects the growth of reading interest in someone. Like the movement carried out by the non-profit GLP community (Gerakan Langkat Pintar), which has accommodated and fostered children's interest in reading in Kwala Bingai Langkat with the various programs they carry out, it is clear from the enthusiasm of the children who are the targets of participating in the programs that have been made. In line with the test results, by comparing the t table ( $N = 30$ ), the significance value is 0.05, the t test results are the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community (X) variable, the t count value is 5.891 > the t table value is 1.697, and the significance value is 0.744 > 0.3061 then states that  $H_a$  is accepted as true. This means a significant influence between the Gerakan Langkat Pintar Community in Increasing Children's Reading Interest in Kwala Bingai Langkat.

### Acknowledgment

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