

## LEARNING ASSISTANCE WITH THE *SILABA* METHOD ON CHILDREN'S READING ABILITY

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### Abstract

Reading is an activity that is beneficial for everyone. The low interest in reading students greatly affects the quality and quality of education in Indonesia. Learning programs at the elementary school level, especially in the lower grades, are directed at building reading skills. This study aimed to determine the impact of the *silaba* method of learning assistance on the reading ability of elementary school-age children in Babadan 01 hamlet. The tutoring method used is the *silaba* method. To facilitate the program, learning media is used, namely letter box media. The method in this activity is to use an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. The evaluation was carried out with tests given to children, as well as interviews with children's parents, to measure the results of the tutoring program that had been implemented. As a result of this service program, children who initially could not read became able to read. The implementation of this tutoring activity went smoothly without significant obstacles.

**Keywords:** *Silaba method; Reading ability; Asset Based Community Development*

### Abstrak

Membaca adalah kegiatan yang bermanfaat bagi semua orang. Rendahnya minat baca siswa sangat berdampak pada kualitas dan mutu pendidikan di Indonesia. Program pembelajaran di tingkat sekolah dasar, terutama di kelas rendah diarahkan untuk membangun kemampuan membaca. Tujuan penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengetahui dampak pendampingan belajar metode silaba terhadap kemampuan membaca anak usia Sekolah Dasar Dusun Babadan 01. Metode bimbingan belajar yang digunakan yaitu dengan metode silaba. Untuk mempermudah program tersebut, digunakan media pembelajaran yaitu media kotak huruf. Metode pada kegiatan ini adalah dengan menggunakan pendekatan Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Evaluasi dilakukan dengan tes yang diberikan kepada anak, serta wawancara pada orang tua anak, untuk mengukur hasil program bimbingan belajar yang telah dilaksanakan. Hasil dari program pengabdian ini anak-anak yang semula tidak bisa membaca menjadi bisa membaca. Pelaksanaan kegiatan bimbingan belajar ini berjalan dengan lancar tanpa hambatan yang cukup berarti.

**Kata kunci:** *Metode silaba; Kemampuan membaca; Asset Based Community Development*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education is a basic need factor for every human being because, through education, efforts to improve people's welfare can be realized (Sudarsana, 2016). Through education, it is hoped that human values are inherited and internalized in

character and personality. Therefore, education is a human need (Triwiyanto, 2021). The progress of a nation depends on the extent to which the quality of the nation's education. Education cannot be separated from family, school and community life. Education seeks to educate people to have knowledge and skills accompanied by faith and piety to Allah SWT to use their knowledge and skills for the good of society, the environment and the nation (Sada, 2017).

In the latest data for January 2020, UNESCO states that Indonesia ranks second from the bottom in terms of world literacy, meaning that people's interest in reading is very low. According to UNESCO data, the reading interest of the Indonesian people is very concerning, only 0.001%. This means that out of 1,000 Indonesians, only one is an avid reader. In different research titled World's Most Literate Nations Ranked conducted by Central Connecticut State University in March 2016, Indonesia was ranked 60th out of 61 countries in terms of reading interest, just below Thailand (59) and above Botswana (61). According to the research results according to the 2019 PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), Indonesia ranks 62nd out of 70 countries concerning literacy levels or is in the bottom ten countries with low literacy levels. Regarding infrastructure assessment to support reading, Indonesia's ranking is above European countries.

Of the 34 provinces in Indonesia, only nine are included in moderate literacy activities, 24 are included in low literacy, and one is in the category of very low literacy. Sulsel itself sits in seat 11 with an index value of 38.82. Meanwhile, South Sulawesi is also in the low zone for the cultural dimension index, which includes reading habits, with an index point of 27.94. Several research results show a positive correlation between reading interest, reading habits, and reading ability. The low reading interest of Indonesian people certainly results in low reading habits, which will impact low reading abilities. Low interest in reading can cause the quality of education in Indonesia to stagnate and tend to decline. According to (Irianto & Febrianti, 2017), the ideal target for improving literacy skills is children because children's activities in the learning process require various references to support their knowledge (Rosaria & Novika, 2018).

The results of field observations show that the reading ability of children in Babadan 01 Hamlet, Paten Village, is still relatively low. This is because the family needs to provide proper assistance to their children. After all, there are many things that parents may do; apart from that, teaching from teachers could be more optimal, and internet access could be better. Based on the results of an interview with one of the residents of Babadan 01 hamlet, Paten Village, data was obtained that the children of Babadan 01 hamlet, Dukun had not mastered reading skills well, even though from an age point of view, these skills should have been possessed (Lina, 2022).

Based on these conditions, this community service activity seeks to offer and present interesting activities to improve children's reading skills. Implementing an education-based program that aims to help children in Babadan 01 hamlet read fluently is necessary. The program the author created is the learning assistance of the *silaba* method for elementary school-age children in Babadan 01 Dukun Hamlet. This is in line with the research results (Rahmat, 2014) that using the *silaba* method in learning to read can improve the initial reading ability of children with learning difficulties.

The *silaba* method is a syllable method that presents words into syllables and then assembles syllables into words with the aim that students who cannot read words can read words. Compared to other reading methods, the advantage of the *silaba* method is that it makes it easier for children who have difficulty reading to learn the relationship between a combination of written letters and their sound and proper word recognition (Isnattunnikmah & Rianto, 2016). The *silaba* method is the most likely choice among other methods to be applied or is expected to improve reading skills. The consideration is that this method is easy to pair with other strategies and media.

Based on the background above, the servant took the title "Tutoring with the *Silaba* Method to Improve Reading Ability". The purpose of this service activity is to improve their reading skills. In addition, it also regenerates their enthusiasm for learning.

## 2. METHOD

This assistance uses an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, which prioritizes the use of assets and potential that are around and owned by the community in Babadan 01 Hamlet, Paten Village, Dukun District, Magelang Regency (Rofi'i & Addury, 2021). The assets that are the focal point in this service are elementary school (SD) level, children. One of the main assets in an asset-based learning assistance program is to change the community's perspective on oneself. Not only fixating on your shortcomings and problems but also paying attention to what you have and can do (Ansori, 2020).

In the ABCD method, there are five key steps (5-D) for conducting mentoring research (Maula & Sholeh, 2021); these components include discovery (in-depth discovery), facilitation or empowering actors carrying out in-depth search processes, such as finding and identifying assets. Belonging to a community. The dream is a dream or desire or a goal expected by the assisted community in developing existing potential or assets. At this stage, the assistant or empowering actor with the assisted community begins to formulate strategies, processes and systems, divide roles and responsibilities, make decisions and develop collaborations that support the realization of solving the assisted community's problems and the expected changes

from the assisted community. Define (determine) facilitators or empowerment actors to determine the topics to assist the community. Destiny (do), at this stage, everyone in the organization implements various things, including implementing and controlling or evaluating community assistance programs that have been formulated (Sutini et al., 2020). The strategy in this approach begins with observing existing places and assets to find needs. Collectively looking at community hopes and dreams for existing assets, designing an activity to realize community expectations, then determining change through program formation, and then carrying out the program that has been prepared (Swasono et al., 2020).

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Babadan 01 Hamlet is one of the hamlets in Paten Village, Shaman District, Magelang Regency. This hamlet is located to the east of Desa Paten and is 4.6 km from the slopes of Mount Merapi. Babadan 01 hamlet comprises 265 heads of households (KK) with a total of 750 people consisting of 450 men and 300 women. The environmental conditions of Babadan 01 hamlet are mostly agricultural land, and most of the residents rely on paddy fields as their main livelihood. With the geographical location of the hamlet, which is on the slopes of Mount Merapi, internet access in Babadan 01 hamlet is quite difficult or low. This affects the student learning process. In addition, busy parents also hinder student learning due to a lack of attention to children. From the observations, the researchers found a problem: the need for more reading ability in the children of Babadan 01 hamlet. Therefore, this service program focused on tutoring services to improve the reading ability of the children of Babadan 01 hamlet, especially elementary school (SD) level children. Tutoring in Babadan 01 Hamlet is held weekly, every Monday, Friday and Saturday, 14.00-15.00 WIB thrice. This activity took place at the house of Mr Kadus Babadan 01. The target for this Bimbel activity is elementary school-age children. The method used to improve reading skills here is using the syllabus method and letterboxes as learning media. The result of this service activity is in the form of assisting children through tutoring activities. Community service through tutoring activities provides many benefits, insights and knowledge to the children of Babadan 01 hamlet, especially in helping to improve their reading skills and regenerate their enthusiasm for learning. The implementation of this tutoring activity takes the form of several activities: 1) motivating children to learn through material-oriented motivation, 2) explaining material using the syllabus method, and 3) providing assistance in completing school assignments.

The steps in determining the service program are as follows:

#### Discovery

The first thing to do in community service is to make observations first. Observations focused on children's learning activities in Babadan 01 Hamlet, Paten



Village, Dukun District, Magelang Regency. At this stage, interviews were conducted with parents and children and observing the target audience's learning environment. Based on the results of interviews with residents of Babadan 01 hamlet, Paten Village, data obtained that there were four points of problems experienced by students, including 1) children's low reading ability, 2) lack of family role in guiding children's learning, 3) low internet access, 4) less optimal teaching from teachers (Bambang, 2022).

### *Dream*

The low reading ability of elementary school-age children is the main problem in Babadan 01 Hamlet. So when doing assignments, they need help understanding the questions. Parents often complain that it is difficult to divide their time between work, taking care of the household, and accompanying their children's studies. The role of parents is still very important for children who are still in elementary school (SD) because they are still at the age of supervision and assistance. In addition, less than optimal teacher teaching and low internet access are also obstacles for children in the learning process. In this case, the children's learning assistance program in the Hamlet Babadan 01, Paten Village, is seen as a solution and a dream for parents who need a study companion for their children. This program aims to help children in Babadan 01 Hamlet, Paten Village, in terms of learning, especially in reading.



Figure 1. Children's reading learning assistance activities

### *Design*

To realize the expectations of the community, especially the parents of children, the researchers invited the children of Babadan 01 hamlet to carry out a program, namely learning assistance, especially reading, which was carried out outside of school hours. Researchers design learning assistance with an interesting method, namely the *silaba* method. Researchers also use learning media to facilitate the program, namely letter box media. With assistance in learning to read, it can improve children's reading skills. Besides, it can encourage children to study hard to be orderly in their daily tasks. Then there is active participation between the companion and the child, and there is good communication between the companion and the child and between the children.

### *Define*

The author determines a method that will be used for tutoring children in Hamlet Babadan 01, namely the *silaba* method. The *silaba* method referred to in this study is a reading method that begins with reading vowels and consonants, introduces syllables, then assembles syllables into meaningful words and then assembles words into simple sentences. The steps of the *silaba* method in this research are as follows

- a. Read vowels and consonants.
- b. Read open syllables.
- c. Read closed syllables.
- d. Read simple sentences.

In order to facilitate the tutoring program, the authors also use learning media. In the process of reading, you need reading media. Reading media develops along with the swift advances in technology and communication. The author chooses to use analog reading media, which consists of a collection of knowledge and information printed on paper. The learning media used is letterbox media. Letterbox media is learning media in the form of illustrated letters that attract students' attention to stimulate students' thoughts, feelings, and willingness to learn, especially learning to read. Activities include composing letters into syllables, words and simple sentences, and children become more enthusiastic about learning to read.

### *Destiny*

The tutoring work program will be carried out from 20 July 2022 - 26 August 2022 at the house of Mr Kadus Babadan 01. This activity has been held 21 times, at 14.00 WIB - 15.00 WIB every Monday, Friday and Saturday. The indicator of the

program's success is that on the last day of tutoring, all children come to the tutoring place and are given quizzes. The quiz contains simple sentences, and prizes for children who can read will be given prizes. This is done for all children. In addition, it can also be seen from the enthusiasm of the children who come to the tutoring place.

In general, the tutoring activities carried out in Babadan 01 Hamlet was fine because these activities' implementation was quite smooth. It is just that some children cannot take part in this tutoring activity because it coincides with other activity schedules. In addition, different levels or levels of education result in less effective and efficient time because guidance is carried out from one child to another.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The learning assistance program for children in Babadan 01 hamlet has been implemented smoothly and positively impacted the Babadan 01 hamlet community. Then the tutoring work program is also very beneficial for children and parents. Tutoring can help children in Babadan 01 hamlet, Paten Village who have difficulty reading to become fluent in reading.

The implementation of reading tutoring in Babadan 01 Hamlet, Paten Village, Dukun District, Magelang Regency with an average age of 6-12 years, the respondents' education is mostly Elementary School (SD) students. The form of offline assistance is tutoring in reading using the *silaba* method and letter box learning media. This tutoring can also encourage children to study enthusiastically; children will also be orderly in carrying out daily assignments from school. Thus it can be interpreted that children's reading ability increases after applying the *silaba* method.

The success of the tutoring program with the *silaba* method like this can be seen in the children's reading ability which has increased after taking tests or quizzes on the last day of program implementation. In addition, the enthusiasm and enthusiasm of children to learn is also high. This was corroborated by the opinions of parents who assessed that their children's reading skills and enthusiasm for learning had increased after the program was held. The tutoring activities carried out in Babadan 01 Hamlet, Paten Village, did not encounter serious problems; it is just that some children could not participate in this study assistance activity because it coincided with other activity schedules. In addition, different levels or levels of education result in less effective and efficient time because guidance is carried out from one child to another.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For the completion of this service activity, the service team would like to thank:

- a. A devoted family that has supported morally and financially.
- b. The Head of Babadan 01 Hamlet and his family who have agreed to allow researchers and friends to stay temporarily
- c. Service team friends who have been willing to work on various work programs together for 45 days.
- d. Babadan 01 Hamlet children who have enthusiastically participated in the community service program.
- e. All residents of Babadan 01 Hamlet who have welcomed and supported the various programs implemented.

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