

## Optimizing The Role of Parents Through Literacy And Health Awareness in Supporting Child Development

Nurul Aziza <sup>1</sup>, Tasya Juli Indrawati<sup>2</sup>, Early Arvisya O<sup>3</sup>, Andaru Hapsari P<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Muhammadiyah University of Sidoarjo, Indonesia



DOI : <https://doi.org/10.61796/jscs.v3i1.397>



### Sections Info

#### Article history:

Submitted: August 15, 2025

Final Revised: August 26, 2025

Accepted: September 18, 2025

Published: September 25, 2025

#### Keywords:

Reading interest

Early childhood

literacy

Child health

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The Community Service Program (KKN) in Balongdowo Village, Candi Sub-district, Sidoarjo Regency aimed to increase early childhood reading interest while strengthening parents' role in supporting children's growth and development. The background of this program was the low reading motivation among children, influenced by limited literacy facilities, health problems, and parents' lack of awareness regarding the importance of early literacy. **Method:** The activities were carried out using a participatory approach through literacy workshops for parents, the establishment of a child-friendly reading corner, and basic health examinations to detect risks of stunting and malnutrition. KKN students collaborated with the local 'Aisyiyah branch and TK/KB institutions in providing reading materials, conducting outreach, and mentoring children. **Results:** The program successfully established a reading corner with various attractive books for children, organized a literacy seminar that raised parents' awareness, and implemented health checks that provided an overview of children's growth conditions. Active participation of partners strengthened the program's success, creating synergy among students, educational institutions, parents, and health cadres. **Novelty:** This KKN program offers an integrated model that combines literacy improvement and early childhood health monitoring simultaneously. Unlike conventional literacy programs, it provides a holistic impact by addressing both educational and health aspects while directly involving parents. This combined approach becomes the novelty that distinguishes the program from similar activities.

## INTRODUCTION

Balongdowo Village, Candi District, Sidoarjo Regency has great potential in the fields of education and health that can support the quality of its younger generation. However, observation results show that early childhood in this village still has low reading interest. This phenomenon is influenced by various factors, such as limited reading facilities that do not attract children's attention, health issues that make it difficult for them to concentrate, and the lack of parental awareness of the importance of introducing reading to children at an early age [1]. In fact, reading is the main gateway for children to get to know the world and learn many things [2]. If this condition is left unchecked, low reading interest can have an impact on children's literacy development and affect their education quality in the future [3] and their critical thinking ability [4].

Based on the observations, the problems faced by the partner in Balongdowo Village, namely the Aisyiyah III Balongdowo Candi Kindergarten, is the lack of a children-friendly reading corner or literacy space. The available books are also not diverse and are not presented in a way that attracts children. In fact, behavior and character formation, as well as the intellectual growth of each individual, can be

supported by reading, which provides various kinds of information. Some children still face health problems such as malnutrition or stunting risks. This condition affects their concentration and cognitive development [5]. Parents' lack of awareness about the importance of early reading is also a problem, as they often consider childhood as a time for play, leaving their children to play rather than encouraging them to read. Additionally, parents do not motivate their children to read, school libraries provide books that are not interesting to children, and the community shows little concern for establishing reading gardens, all contributing to the low reading interest [6].

To address these issues, real steps are needed, including providing a children-friendly reading corner, designing the reading corner attractively, and providing a variety of books such as picture storybooks, interactive books, and simple science books as literacy tools, so that children feel happy and motivated to read. In order for the partner to monitor children's growth and development properly, health checks are carried out to detect stunting risks and nutrition problems early on, so that children's development can be directed towards optimal progress. There will also be counseling for parents about the importance of literacy in early childhood. To increase parents' awareness about the importance of early literacy, counseling and education will be provided, emphasizing the role of parents in guiding their children to enjoy reading so that children get used to seeing reading as an enjoyable and beneficial activity [7].

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The implementation method for the KKN activity in Balongdowo Village, Candi District, uses a participatory approach, where the community, especially parents and children, are actively involved in each program [8]. The activities begin with counseling for parents about the importance of early literacy and the significant role of parents in guiding their children during learning. Through this counseling, it is hoped that a new awareness will emerge that making children accustomed to reading is not only the responsibility of the school or teachers, but also the family's responsibility in creating an environment that supports children's literacy development [9].

In addition, KKN students also strive to provide tangible facilities by creating a children-friendly reading corner. This reading corner is equipped with storybooks, bookshelves, and engaging educational media, which are capable of fostering reading interest while also creating a fun learning atmosphere [10]. Not only focusing on education, the KKN activities also include health aspects, such as child health checks, including height and weight measurements, as well as growth and development counseling. Through this combination of education and health activities, the KKN program not only provides knowledge but also builds literacy habits and health awareness that are sustainable for the Balongdowo Village community [11].

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The preparation phase of the KKN activities was carried out through coordination between the student team and the partners, namely the Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah

Branches in Balongdowo Village. During this phase, the program design, location, schedule, and strategies to involve parents in supporting early childhood development were discussed. The coordination resulted in an agreement on the main programs: literacy counseling for parents, the provision of a children-friendly reading corner, and basic health checks. Before implementation, the KKN team prepared various technical needs, such as presentation materials, simple modules, children's books, bookshelves, and tools for health checks.

Additionally, the partner also played a role in facilitating health counseling and child growth and development checks. The head of the Aisyiyah Kindergarten supported the children's literacy activities, while health cadres assisted in data collection and child health checks. With the involvement of these partners, the KKN activities proceeded more smoothly, and the goals of improving literacy and health for early childhood were achieved more effectively [12].

The program implementation focused on two main aspects: children's literacy and health. For literacy, students held a seminar for parents aimed at raising awareness of the importance of early reading. The seminar included presentation materials, videos, and hands-on practices for guiding children during reading activities. Children were also introduced to the reading corner, which featured a collection of storybooks, literacy modules for reading, writing, and arithmetic (*calistung*), and interactive activities that encouraged them to become more interested in reading. This activity aligns with [13], which states that providing attractive literacy facilities can increase children's motivation to learn.

In the health aspect, activities were focused at KB Aisyiyah III Balongdowo with counseling on the importance of monitoring children's growth and preventing stunting. Additionally, basic health checks were conducted, including blood pressure measurements, height and weight assessments, and identifying signs of malnutrition or stunting. The results of these health checks formed the basis for providing education to parents regarding parenting, balanced nutrition, and efforts to support children's optimal growth. This aligns with [14], which found that early childhood health monitoring can help parents take preventive actions against malnutrition risks.

In the health field, activities were supported by basic health tools for measuring height, weight, and assessing children's growth and development. Partner medical personnel also played an essential role in ensuring that the health checks followed proper standards [15]. The availability of these facilities and infrastructure was crucial for the success of the program, ensuring that each KKN activity was carried out effectively and on target.

In addition to demonstrating success in literacy and health aspects, the KKN activities in Balongdowo Village also highlighted the importance of synergy between educational institutions, community organizations, and families in creating a sustainable learning environment. Children, who were previously less interested in reading activities, began to show more enthusiasm when interacting with the reading corner, which was equipped with picture books, literacy modules, and interactive media.



**Figure 1.** Documentation of parent education on the importance of early reading.



**Figure 2.** Documentation of blood pressure check and child growth monitoring.



**Figure 3.** Outcome of creating the reading corner as a literacy facility.

In terms of health, the health checks revealed that several children had signs of poor nutrition and mild stunting risk. The health counseling provided not only offered practical knowledge to parents but also raised awareness that literacy and health are two complementary aspects of children's growth and development [16].

Overall, these literacy and health activities demonstrate that an integrative approach involving parents can strengthen early childhood development. The establishment of the reading corner fostered children's motivation to read, while health counseling and monitoring increased parents' awareness of creating a healthy and

conducive learning environment. With active partner involvement, the KKN activities in Balongdowo Village successfully addressed the low reading interest issues and made a tangible contribution to raising health awareness in the community.

## CONCLUSION

**Fundamental Finding :** The KKN program in Balongdowo Village successfully increased early childhood reading interest through the provision of a children-friendly reading corner and raised parental awareness about the importance of literacy. Additionally, basic health checks helped detect stunting risks and improved parents' understanding of nutrition and child growth. **Implication :** This activity proves that an integrative approach combining literacy and health, involving parents and the community, can be an effective strategy to support holistic child development. **Limitation :** The program was limited by the short duration of the activity and the small scope of participants, so its impact cannot be generalized widely. **Future Research :** Future studies should expand the scope and duration of the program, including utilizing digital technology as a literacy medium and community empowerment models for ongoing program sustainability.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to the Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah Branches in Balongdowo, the Village Government, the Principal and Teachers of Aisyiyah Kindergarten, the health cadres, and the community for their support and active participation in this Integrated KKN program.

We also thank all the students and related parties who collaborated to ensure the success of the early childhood literacy and health program.

## REFERENCES

- [1] N. Solichah, H. Y. Solehah, and R. Hikam, "Persepsi Serta Peran Orang Tua dan Guru terhadap Pentingnya Stimulasi Literasi pada Anak Usia Dini," *J. Obs. J. Pendidik. Anak Usia Dini*, vol. 6, no. 5, pp. 3931–3943, 2022, doi: 10.31004/obsesi.v6i5.2453.
- [2] A. Ramadhanti, A. Al bahij, and L. Mufida, "Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Kurangnya Minat Baca di Sekolah Dasar: Tinjauan dari Perspektif Siswa dan Guru," *Semnasfip*, pp. 1249–1255, 2024, [Online]. Available: [www.perpusnas.go.id](http://www.perpusnas.go.id)
- [3] C. D. Ramadhani, A. Fadhillah Z., A. Adrias, and F. Suciana, "Analisis Minat Baca dan Dampaknya terhadap Pemahaman Bacaan Siswa Sekolah Dasar," *Didakt. J. Pendidik. Bhs. dan Sastra Indones.*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 9–18, 2025, doi: 10.33096/didaktis.v3i1.905.
- [4] N. K. R. Supriyani and I. M. A. Winangun, "Strategi Meningkatkan Pemahaman Peserta Didik Melalui Pembelajaran Berdiferensiasi Di Sekolah Dasar," *Agama Dan Budaya*, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 199–207, 2024, [Online]. Available: <http://jurnal.stahnmpukuturan.ac.id/index.php/widyacarya/index>
- [5] R. Imeldawati, "Dampak Terjadinya Stunting terhadap Perkembangan Kognitif Anak : Literature Review," *J. Med. Nusantara*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 101–107, 2025.
- [6] N. R. Utami and F. Kurniawati, "Keterlibatan Orang Tua dalam Mengembangkan Minat Membaca Anak Usia Prasekolah," *VISI J. Ilm. PTK PNF*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 61–78, 2022.
- [7] E. D. Pramita, Y. T. Porwanto, A. K. Arifah, A. Febrianti, and ..., *UMSIDA PRESS Tahun 2019*. [Online]. Available: <https://drpm.umsida.ac.id/wp->

- content/uploads/2020/09/Sejuta-potensi-dan-inspirasi-di-desa-Entalsewu.pdf
- [8] H. H. Ahmad Mustanir, Rifni Nikmat Syarifuddin, "Analisis Pengumpulan Data Masyarakat Metode Partisipatif," *J. Moderat*, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 227–239, 2022.
- [9] T. Yudistira, K. H. Maula, B. S. Khusna, and D. M. Ibnu Sabil, "Peran Orang Tua dalam Meningkatkan Literasi Membaca Peserta Didik Sekolah Dasar," *J. Terap. Pendidik. Dasar dan Menengah*, vol. 4, no. 3, pp. 87–97, 2025, doi: 10.28926/jtpdm.v4i3.1842.
- [10] M. J. N. Alifah, P. F. Setyawan, P. M. Al Khusna, and D. Luzsanti, "Menumbuhkan Minat Baca Anak Usia Dini Melalui Media Pojok Baca Di Ra Sunan Giri Dan Kb Sunan Giri Desa Ngebruk," *Empower. J. Pengabd. pada Masy.*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2023, doi: 10.51700/empowerment.v3i1.424.
- [11] R. Indy, "Peran Pendidikan Dalam Proses Perubahan Sosial Di Desa Tumaluntung Kecamatan Kauditan Kabupaten Minahasa Utara," *HOLISTIK, J. Soc. Cult.*, vol. 12, no. 4, pp. 1–18, 2019, [Online]. Available: <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/holistik/article/view/25466>
- [12] S. P. Collins *et al.*, *Collins, Sean P., Alan Storrow, Dandan Liu, Cathy A. Jenkins, Karen F. Miller, Christy Kampe, and Javed Butler. 2021.* 2021.
- [13] R. N. Nurhasanah and D. Mustika, "Peran guru dalam kegiatan literasi untuk menumbuhkan minat baca siswa," *J. Educ. J. Pendidik. Indones.*, vol. 10, no. 1, p. 318, 2024, doi: 10.29210/1202424203.
- [14] N. Riasti, R. Hasibuan, A. Mashadi, I. I. Sa'adah, and K. Nusroh, "Pengaruh Gizi dan Pola Asuh terhadap Perkembangan Anak Usia Dini," *JIIIP - J. Ilm. Ilmu Pendidik.*, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 6716–6721, 2025, doi: 10.54371/jiip.v8i6.8565.
- [15] L. Lailaturohmah, N. Ayu Andera, and R. Mildawati, "Pemeriksaan Berat Badan Dan Tinggi Badan Rutin Sebagai Upaya Optimalisasi Tumbuh Kembang Anak," *J. LENTERA*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 70–84, 2023, doi: 10.57267/lentera.v3i2.306.
- [16] K. Khotimah, R. Hasibuan, E. Susilowati, S. Bunnayah, and N. I. Zumara, "Peran Orang Tua Dalam Meningkatkan Kesehatan Serta Nutrisi Anak Pada Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini," *J. MADINASIKA Manaj. Pendidik. dan Kegur.*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 166–174, 2025, doi: 10.31949/madinasika.v6i2.13997.

---

**\*Nurul Azizah (Corresponding Author)**

Muhammadiyah University of Sidoarjo,  
Indonesia Email: [nurulalzah@umsida.ac.id](mailto:nurulalzah@umsida.ac.id)

**Tasya Juli Indrawati**

Muhammadiyah University of Sidoarjo, Indonesia

**Early Arvisya O**

Muhammadiyah University of Sidoarjo, Indonesia

**Andaru Hapsari P**

Muhammadiyah University of Sidoarjo, Indonesia

---