

THE LOW INTEREST OF INDONESIAN PEOPLE TO READ BOOKS

Angga Haikal Wahyudi ^{1,*}, Muhammad Zul'Asfy Rayhan ², Gloria Salsa Br Sembiring ³, Bunga

Nailah Syam ⁴, Ermelia Verawaty Hutagalung⁵

UNIMED, Medan, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

¹ anggahaikalwahyudi@gmail.com; ² zulasfyrhn@gmail.com; ³ gloriasalsa80@gmail.com; ⁴ syambunga395@gmail.com; ⁵ ermeliyahutagalung@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Keywords

Keyword_1 reading habits

Keyword_2 socio-cultural factors

Keyword_3 literacy

Keyword_4 digital distractions

Keyword_5 education

Reading plays a crucial role in the intellectual and cultural development of individuals and societies. However, in Indonesia, the interest in reading books remains relatively low. This paper examines the factors contributing to the low reading interest among Indonesians, including socio-economic conditions, educational infrastructure, technological distractions, and cultural perceptions of reading. Data were gathered through surveys and literature reviews to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current state of reading habits in the country. The findings reveal that limited access to books, particularly in rural areas, the prevalence of digital entertainment, and a lack of encouragement from family and educational institutions are among the primary reasons for the low reading interest. Moreover, the study identifies strategies to promote a stronger reading culture, such as increasing public library access, integrating reading habits into school curricula, and utilizing digital platforms to make books more accessible. This research concludes that addressing the multi-faceted issues surrounding reading interest in Indonesia requires collaborative efforts from government, educators, and the community to foster a more literate and informed society.

1. INTRODUCTION

Reading is a fundamental activity that contributes significantly to the development of knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking. A society that values reading tends to show better outcomes in education, socio-economic progress, and innovation. However, in Indonesia, despite the country's large population and increasing access to education, the interest in reading books remains notably low. According to various studies and global literacy rankings, Indonesia often ranks poorly in terms of reading interest and habits. This phenomenon raises concerns about the nation's intellectual and cultural growth.

Several factors have been identified as contributing to this low interest in reading among Indonesians. Socio-economic barriers, such as the high cost of books and the limited access to libraries, particularly in rural areas, play a significant role. Additionally, the rapid rise of digital media, television, and mobile devices has shifted people's attention away from traditional reading materials. The cultural perception that reading is not a leisure activity but rather an academic obligation has also influenced how Indonesians, especially the younger generation, view books.

This paper aims to explore the underlying causes of this low interest in reading and assess the broader implications for the country's development. By understanding the barriers to reading, we can identify potential solutions to promote reading culture and literacy across Indonesia. Furthermore, this research seeks to highlight the