

Conference Paper

Introducing the Value of Nationalism through Children's Literacy: Optimizing the Digital Platform

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ABSTRACT

Nationalism, national defense education, and eco-awareness are relatable. While nationalism is considered a value instilled in one's heart, national defense is defined as an attitude of realizing nationalism through activities that share the same objectives - protecting, defending, and growing the nation. One good way to instill the character of nationalism is by utilizing literature, specifically creative children's literacy, through the digital platform which is inclusively accessible nowadays. It is expected to spread the awareness of nationalism values in children. This study observed the knowledge obtained by children in Taman Baca Masyarakat (Public Library) RW 02 Pradah Kali Kendal, represented in a story writing activity. The value of state defense introduced is limited to three aspects - anticorruption, eco-awareness, and culture-awareness. This study finds that children in Public Library RW 02 Pradah Kali Kendal obtained knowledge about nationalism values and awareness well. The children are also willing to apply a digital platform to spread their values and understanding through children's literacy. It represents the creative literacy writings written by the children in Public Library RW 02 Pradah Kali Kendal.

Keywords: Creative literacy, eco-awareness, digital literacy, national defense, nationalism

Introduction

The formation of the character of defending the country in children has a high urgency in the global context and the era of digitalization as it is today. According to survey data released by CNN (2021) said that 19.3% of Indonesian children have a high addiction to gadgets. Furthermore, most of the time, children spend their devices playing online games and surfing social media. Meanwhile, BBC (2016) revealed a survey that more than 55% of 1,700 parents agreed that social media could hinder children's moral development. These facts show that character education or character building is highly urgent to provide filters to children in utilizing the convenience of technology in the digital era. In addition, character-building offers experiences for children to be able to help them identify good values, then are willing and able to implement them in everyday life (Rizqi & Maknun, 2021). One of the characteristics that need to be instilled in children from an early age, especially to prepare them to be able to answer global challenges and become superior quality human resources, is the character of defending the country.

The formation of a national defense character is crucial and needs to be instilled early. The importance of state defense education is stated in Article 27 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution which reads, "Every citizen has the right and is obliged to participate in efforts to defend the state". In its implementation, defending the country can be done physically and non-physically (Kemenkumham, 2020). This means that protecting the country is not always seen as having a narrow meaning related to physical war. Although national defense efforts in the face of aggression from domestic and foreign parties that threaten the country's resilience are also one

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of its elements, defending the country has a broad meaning. One form of non-physical state defense is efforts to advance the Indonesian nation and excel at national and international levels; even the behavior of protecting the environment, loving the culture of one's nation, and not committing corruption is also one of the implementations of defending the country.

Implementing state defense education for children is generally still formal through the education curriculum in schools, both in formal and informal forms such as extracurriculars (Sari, 2016). The Ministry of Defense started the state defense education program in October 2015. The National Defense Education and Training Center (Pusdiklat) has developed a state defense education curriculum for PAUD to university students. One of the other activities outside of school hours is a competition to write stories with the theme of defending the country. However, the stories' themes are generally still the theme of heroism or refer to the physical meaning of defending the country. Thus, the formation of the character of defending the country through the literacy movement is still minimal.

In the current digital era, to improve literacy in children, reading materials are also needed so both children and parents can access that practically and flexibly. This means that the existence of digital books or e-books has become part of the literacy of the digital community. However, literacy is not just a matter of reading. Literacy activities include creative writing activities or producing works. Khan and Wulansari (2021) said that creative writing could stimulate an active attitude and develop creativity in children. By writing stories, children can more easily internalize moral values to form positivity. In addition, through creative writing, children can develop imagination and verbal skills to increase their genes on this; the formation of state defense character in children can be done through creative writing by utilizing free writing applications, one of which is the Storial.co application.

The Storial.co app is a digital platform that connects writers and readers from anywhere. This platform provides various features that make it easier for a writer to produce his creative work. Through Storial.co, authors can directly publish their readers. In addition, Storial.co also provides various categories of stories based on age and genre. This can support literacy in children and increase literacy activities, both reading and writing, because of the ease of access. Children can also read their friends' stories and give each other comments on published stories. In addition, all the works published on Storial.co can also be monetized if the number of readers is large.

Based on some of the advantages described above, the Storial.co application can support community service programs that carry the theme "Formation of National Defense Character from an Early Age through Creative Writing". This community service program makes the Community Reading Park (TBM) RW 2 Pradah Kali Kendal an implementation partner.

Material and Methods

Preliminary and preparation of training modules

The team will collect the supporting data needed to implement the training at this stage by collecting children's story books with the theme of defending the country, which will be used as a reference in the implementation of the training. After sufficient references, the team will develop a module or guidebook for the implementation of the training. This guide will be used as a reference as well as guidelines in the implementation of the training. In addition, the reference set will be compiled in Google Drive so that later it can be shared between the team and partners.

Training implementation

In this stage, the team will carry out training for partners. The training was carried out in 4 meetings using offline and online methods. With this program, children at TBM RW 2 Pradah Kali Kendal are expected to produce an anthology of short stories with the theme of defending the country which can be categorized into three sub-themes, namely (1) protecting the environment, (2) anti-corruption, (3) loving one's own culture. The three sub-themes are written based on children's everyday experiences in easy-to-understand language.

Lecturers and students of UPN “Veteran” Jawa Timur will be mentors for children in writing stories with the theme of defending the country according to the three sub-themes above and mentors in using the Storial.co application. The details of the training implementation are as follows:

- **Meeting 1: Initial socialization of the program and creation of a Storial.co account**
The team will visit TBM RW 2 Pradah Kalikendal directly as partners in this first meeting. The agenda in this first meeting was to provide general socialization of the program to partners. The goal is to have a common understanding of the program's objectives and agree on a timeline for the next training activity. In addition, on this occasion, he will also carry out technical guidance on creating a Storial.co account which will be used as the leading platform for making an Anthology of National Defense-Themed Children's Stories.
- **Meeting 2: Development of story ideas and drafting of storybook outlines**
In the second meeting, the team will revisit the partners in person. The agenda for this meeting is to invite children in TBM RW 2 Pradah Kalikendal to start developing story ideas and compiling story frames. The form of activity is FGD, where the team and children at TBM RW 2 Pradah Kalikendal will brainstorm and share story ideas. The team will also present a collection of references that have previously been compiled as references and references for children in writing stories based on three sub-theme categories: anti-corruption, love for the environment, and love for indigenous Indonesian culture.
- **Meeting 3: Mentoring**
This third meeting is an online mentoring activity. The team will accompany the children via Zoom and provide opportunities for the children at TBM RW 2 Pradah Kalikendal to consult about problems or obstacles encountered in writing children's storybooks with the theme of defending the country.
- **Meeting 4: Finalization**
This fourth meeting is the final stage of the anthology of children's stories with the theme of defending the country. The team will compile stories from each child and make illustrations based on children's stories at TBM RW 2 Pradah Kalikendal. Furthermore, children can upload their own stories to the Storial.co app and publish their work. In addition, there will be prizes for the three best stories.

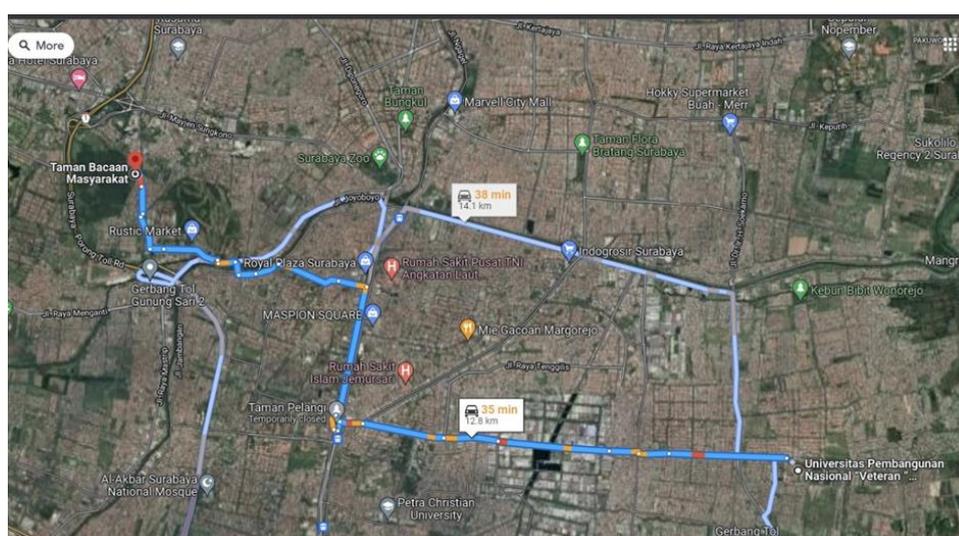


Figure 1. Map of the distance from college to the location of community reading Park RW 2 Pradah Kali Kendal

Preparation of program outputs

In this stage, the team will first review or evaluation of the results of the program implementation, especially the results of the training implementation. The team will ensure that the objectives of the training implementation have been achieved and produce outputs that are as expected. Second, the team will prepare mandatory and additional work as planned to be reported to LPPM. This is important as a form of team accountability for the overall program implementation.

Results and Discussion

Based on the problems described in the previous chapter, this entire series of activities has achieved some of the targets that have been set. After the training, the service participants understood the concept of defending the country and love for the homeland in daily life as measured through a question and answer session during the first meeting on June 17, 2022. Then, the participants could write short stories from the point of view of children their age as a result of mentoring activities. The writings were uploaded on Storial.co at the first meeting on June 25, 2022.

The writing results after the second day were then evaluated together by using Zoom for virtual meetings twice, namely on July 1 and 2, 2022. The Pikat FH UPN "Veteran" Jawa Timur Team announced the best writers and gave prizes within one week later. The winners are dominated by the age range of 10-12 years or elementary school education level.

The visitors of TBM Pradah Kali Kendal, a group of 6-17 years old children, participated in writing stories with the theme of defending the country and love for the homeland. This activity's participants came from various elementary, junior high, and high school levels. The total participants of the activity were one person from the high school level, two from the junior high school level, and nine from the high school level. High school participants are 8%, junior high school is 17%, and elementary school is 75%. Of these, twelve (12) short stories were collected with various themes: anti-corruption values, love for the environment, and passion for Indonesian culture. All of these stories are distributed as follows: three levels with the theme of love for the environment, three stories with the theme of love for Indonesian culture, and six stories with the theme of anti-corruption values.

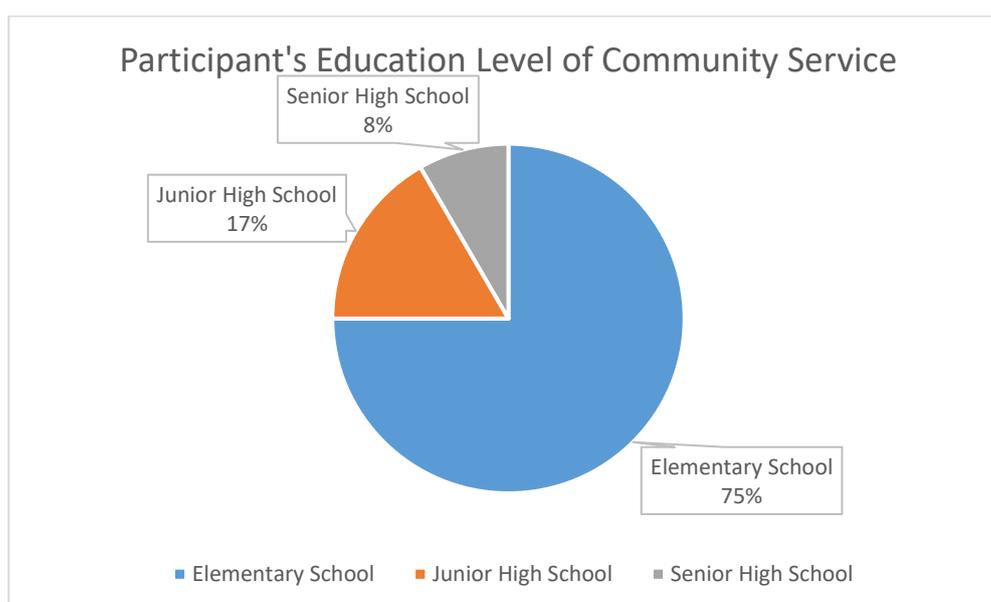


Figure 2. Distribution of education level of community service participants

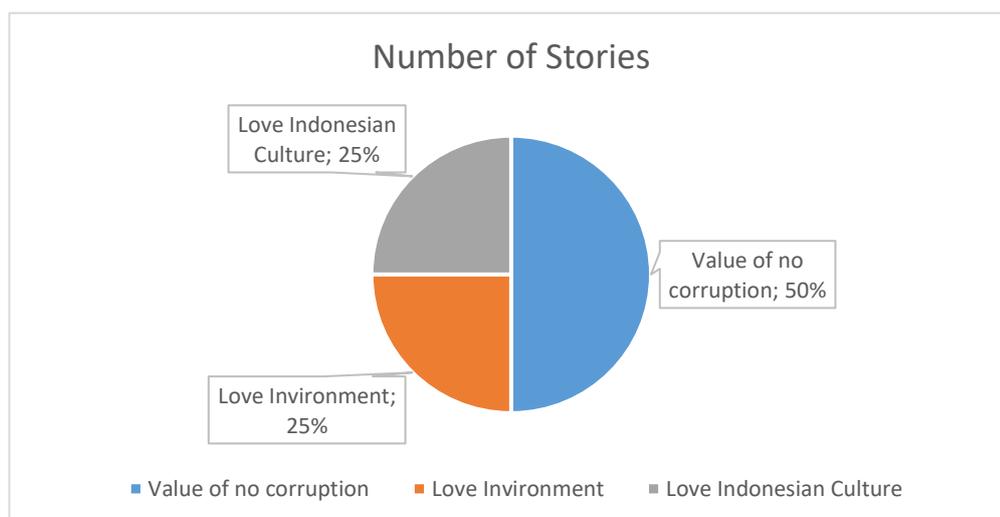


Figure 3. Distribution of short story writing theme categories

All these writings will be compiled into an anthology book published in printed and digital versions uploaded on the Storial.co page as a form of using technology to improve literacy accessibility for children. Some stories will be accompanied by illustrations that illustrate the story's main idea, which is also done by children so that they can take advantage of children's creativity and productivity. The service target then uploads stories that the compilation has assisted by the team from PIKAT through the Storial.co page, along with the results of the illustrations. This anthology book's publication adds literature that the community, mainly children, can utilize. The following are the titles of writings successfully written by the training participants and one Indonesian language lecturer at the Faculty of Law, UPN "Veteran" Jawa Timur.

Table 1. The successfully wrote titles by the training participants

<i>Ketupat Buatan Dina</i> Oleh Adelia Savitri	<i>Aku Mau Belajar Jujur</i> Oleh Liyana Zahira Nur Aqila
<i>Kejujuran kepada Teman</i> Oleh Adinda Najwa Safitri	<i>Bumi Kita Sudah Tua?</i> Oleh Novi Astritasari
<i>Antara Maaf dan Kejujuran</i> Oleh Alya Dewina Maryam	<i>Kejujuran di Sekolah</i> Oleh Oktarina Juanita
<i>Menjaga Kelestarian Lingkungan Sekolah</i> Oleh Amelia Calista Putri	<i>Ketidakjujuran Bisa Merusak Pertemanan</i> Oleh Rina Nur Latifah
<i>Kita Harus Melestarikan Kebudayaan Daerah</i> Oleh Gayatri Sukma Wardani	<i>Tina Sang Penari</i> Oleh Wirastatik Anggun Nindya Supriyanto
<i>Cintailah Lingkunganmu</i> Oleh Hafizah Julie Amelia	<i>Bhineka Tunggal Ika</i> Oleh Keysa Salsa Laluna

In addition, this anthology of stories with the theme of defending the country, written by children from TBM RW 2 Pradah Kali Kendal Surabaya, has also been published on the Storial.co page and can be accessed on link: <https://storial.co/book/seikat-cerita-bela-negara-di-era-milenial>

The screenshot displays the Storial.co interface for a published work. At the top, the Storial.co logo is on the left, and navigation options like 'Coba Premium', 'Lihat Cerita', 'Kategori', and 'Kompetisi' are in the center. A search bar and 'Login / Signup' button are on the right. The main content area features a book cover for 'Seikat Cerita Bela Negara di Era Milenial' with a 0.0 star rating. To the right of the cover, the title 'Seikat Cerita Bela Negara di Era Milenial' is displayed, along with the author's name 'Adelia Savitri' and a 'Ikuti' (Follow) button. Below the title, there are statistics: '4 dibaca', '45 menit', '13 Bab', and 'Umum'. A 'Mulai Baca Sekarang!' (Start Reading Now!) button is prominent. The 'DESKRIPSI' (Description) section contains text about the anthology being a collection of children's stories from TBM RW 2 Pradah Kali Kendal, intended for an anthology. At the bottom, there are tags for 'anak', 'bela negara', and 'cerita pendek'.

Figure 4. Display of published works on Storial.co

Conclusion

Creative writing activities with the theme of defense aim to teach children the values of defending the country from an early age. Furthermore, it is expected to increase literacy in Surabaya and support the vision of Surabaya as a Literacy City. Writing teaching methods can be given to children in stages. Begin to determine the story's topic, create an outline, and develop the story. The resulting children's stories are then uploaded to the Storial.co application. This application allows children to access other friends' stories and publish their work widely through the Storial.co page. In addition, the collection of children's stories is also recorded as an anthology and will be donated to TBM RW 2 Pradah Kali Kendal Surabaya.

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