

# **Empowering Students' Abilities and Personalities through Student Librarians Programs**

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Library as a learning resource center (LRC) is the heart of the school. A school is considered as a great school if it can use its library as creative and informative as it can be. One of good ideas is by involving students in every activity and program that the library has. Running student librarians program is one strategy that every school can do to make the library more alive.

Student Librarians is an organization that library can have to make its students have the ownership of their library. It is a voluntary program that is running by students and for students. The system in forming this organization is also based on students' willingness. In other words, if they are interested in this organization they need to apply and follow all the qualification including experiencing the selection, test, and interview session. The reasons for having these steps in the selection process are to find out their sincerity and motivation in joining this program. This is merely because they are going to have one year service period.

The members of student librarians are taken from year 3-5 (primary students), year 7-8 (secondary students), and year 10-11 (high school students). In this decision we do not involve year 6, 9 and 12 because we are looking at Indonesia's education policy in which every student need to follow the final exam for national curriculum in each level of education (primary, secondary, and high school) and we do not want the students to be interrupted with the SL program.

After the selection finishes the new student librarians will talk about their passion including their regular meeting time, programs, ideas to make their library more colorful and useful, and budget needs. These conversations and processes are the most important and interesting part since we can see their abilities and personalities growth especially when they need to work together as teamwork or accept differences for the sake of everyone's need. In school and out school program can be made equally so that we can be the example for other schools to promote the same program or we can find sister schools in order to expand students' knowledge.

The program can be a competition, charity, creativity, fair, or an excursion. One of the most favorite competition is story telling. It gives students not only the opportunity to perform but also encourage them to be a risk taker and a good communicator. Moreover they will be challenged to be creative so that their story will not be too boring for the audience.

One of good strategy for schools with a very minimum budget for their library resources is Book Fair. This can be one of the best ways for raising fund and get the donation not only from parents but also from book

vendors. By inviting book vendors and sell the stalls for example, student librarians and the library can have more money that they can use for adding resources and funding the program.

Student librarians can also be a place for students to increase their self-esteem. Some shy and quiet students can improve their teamwork and leadership skills in this organization. This is simply because each member of student librarians should regularly take role in every program. One good example is the workshop program where each of them needs to share their experience and knowledge about their library to other students and teachers from other schools. It is not only about their library but they also talk about information literacy lesson that they get at school. So at this point students not only shape their skills in public speaking but also spread their understanding and ability to other students, which we hope can be shared again to other students in other schools like a snow ball effect.

As a conclusion we need to realize that library is a treasure land for students. It depends on us as teachers whether or not we know how to use our library to support students' abilities and personalities. Basically children are like a white paper to write on. Our creativity and willingness are really important to help them grow to be more independent and to become life-long learners. Involving student's action in each program that we plan will help them grow and learn more. **It does not matter how big is our library or how complete is our collection but how strong we can empower them to learn and become someone with a great meaning and experiences in their life.**