THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC COLLEGE LIBRARY IN SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 4 PROGRAM

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the role of the library of Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College in supporting the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 4. The research method used is qualitative method using semi-structured interviews as a data collection technique. The data sources used in this study were stakeholders, students, librarians, and libraries at Al-Ulum Medan Integrated Islamic College. The collected data is then analyzed using thematic analysis. The results of the analysis show two themes, namely programs, and constraints. The program theme explains the role that libraries play in supporting the implementation of SDGs 4. This theme tells about providing access to information to users, library cooperation programs with other parties who also contribute to supporting the implementation of SDGs 4, as well as training programs to develop human resources. The constraint theme illustrates the activities or policies in the library that can hinder the library from providing support in the implementation of SDGs 4. This research contributes to providing new knowledge on how libraries play a role in supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Keywords

Libraries; quality education; Sustainable Development Goal.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is something that is agreed upon by all individuals as an important element in a country (Hakim, 2016). The quality of a country’s education largely determines the progress of the country. In the National Education System Law Number 20 of 2003, it is stated that: “Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious, spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character and skills needed by themselves, society, nation, and state.”

Indonesia can be said to be a country that has tried to provide care for the realization of a good education. Various efforts have been designed and implemented by the government. As stated in the 1945 Constitution Article 31, paragraph 4, which reads: "The state prioritizes the education budget at least 20% of the APBD and APBN". However, even so, education is inseparable from various problems. A survey conducted by the World Population Review in 2021 placed Indonesia in 54th place out of 78 countries in the world education ranking. Indonesia is still under cognate countries in ASEAN, namely Singapore, which is in position 21, Malaysia in position 38, and Thailand in position 48 (Sambo, 2022). Indonesia is a country where the quality of education is still relatively low.

Lately, there are still many people who think that a library is just a building containing a collection of books. Meanwhile, it has been written in Law No. 43 of 2007 that the function of the library is as a place for education, research, preservation, information containers, and recreation places that have a role in increasing the intelligence and empowerment of the nation. The function of the Library as a vehicle for education plays an important role in the creation of quality education (Wibisono, 2021). Education is one of the processes of a person’s development in the form of mindset, attitude, character, and language, and also to what extent it is able to contribute to community life (Dasic et al., 2022). Education is able to give birth to intellectually intelligent humans who can think scientifically and are able to develop their spiritual nature. Education is seen as a tool to achieve national growth and development. Therefore, the role of libraries as providers of supporting services for educational institutions and awareness of the importance of education for sustainable development must always be emphasized (Osinulu, 2021).

The library is one of the sources of public knowledge that is required to play a role in the success of the goals of national education because it is a center for literacy and quality information transfer (Connaway et al., 2023). The presence of a library for users can provide a variety of activities
in the process of teaching and learning activities. The school library is one of the educational facilities supporting the student learning process, which has an important role in achieving the goals of education in the school environment. Innovative and quality education are able to encourage the birth of one's creativity, especially for the younger generation as innovation agents who will later contribute to sustainable development programs (Irmadillah, 2022).

To support this, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) program was established as an effort to improve and advance community welfare, one of which is improving the quality of education. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a program created by the United Nations (UN) in 2015. This program describes guidelines in the sustainable development design process consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 (Badruessham et al., 2021).

Sustainable Development Goals 2030 until now continues to be a world guideline in developing the vision and mission and even a benchmark for sustainable development. SDGs are global plans that aim to overcome various common problems, ranging from problems in the field of education, social sector, economic field, energy sector, and cultural field to the environment (Irhamysyah, 2018).

One of the strategies in the application of SDGs education is in goal 4, namely "Quality Education", namely Indonesia's goal to ensure quality education that is equal, inclusive, and supports learning opportunities for all communities. Therefore, it is hoped that this program can help improve the quality or quality of education in Indonesia. Quality Education can be realized with the development of education that is evenly distributed throughout Indonesia, both through the Government, such as Schools, and through regions, such as Regional Libraries (Aulia, 2020).

Academic libraries in each region have implicitly implemented SDGs with different qualities and quantities. Realizing the SDGs is not easy because the socio-economic conditions in different countries are different. However, it does not rule out the possibility that we can contribute to the success of the program by developing it further, as well as starting from the construction of school libraries that support the implementation of common goals because anyone can take a role in the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program, including school libraries (Nurfatimah et al., 2022).

To realize this, it is also necessary to involve various parties who directly contribute to learning and improving the quality of education, the party in question is the library. Al-Ulum Islamic College Library is a school library that can be accessed by Dsar School students to high school
students. The library’s collection is dominated by non-fiction books and not a few fiction collections. Al-Ulum Islamic College Library has several visions and missions that are made to help improve the quality of the library. Its vision is to realize the Library as a vehicle for information and increase the reading interest of students, students and school residents, and its mission is to develop the role of the Library as a collector, manager, presenter, and information service, streamline the function of Library resources to optimize the role of the Library as an information center and improve the quality of students and students to have more competencies that are able to refer to motivating users to learn.

In the vision and mission that has been initiated by the library, many have been realized, but not as a whole. The sense that this library is still experiencing obstacles in trying to realize the vision and mission they made. Especially in the last mission, which states that it is able to improve the quality of students and students to have more competencies that are able to refer to motivating users to learn. In fact, the Al-Ulum Library still cannot ensure that this is realized. Therefore, here researchers will find out how important the library has been in the continuity of students’ education.

The same research has been conducted (Juniadi & Heriyanto, 2021). Regarding the Public Library Strategy in Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals Program, it is stated that in achieving the fourth point of SDGs, namely the provision of quality education, it must be proven by the creation of providers. The research above states that the role of libraries in supporting the SDGs program at this time cannot be said to be optimal, and there is still a need for further mass improvement in the form of providing access to information in the process of developing user competence by providing as many references as possible library materials or training, as well as the need for library cooperation with other communities in implementing programs related to activities that are currently popular in the community.

Another relevant research discusses Efforts to Improve Quality Education in Indonesia: Analysis of the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) conducted by (Wahyudi, 2020) explains that the strategy of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the process of improving the quality of education in Indonesia still has several obstacles such as the condition and quality of education which is not yet adequate and equitable overall. Then explain how the current condition of education and how the government’s role in overcoming problems in improving the quality of education in Indonesia. It is hoped that the SDGs program will be able to overcome the problem of education that is still uneven and can improve its quality in order to make the Indonesian
nation more advanced. The research above states that any strategy implemented has not been able to improve the quality of education because it has not been averagely implemented. In its application, it still experiences various vital problems, such as difficult access to schools, differences in customs, quality of competence quality and the quality of teaching staff in remote areas (Safitri et al., 2022).

Therefore, research on the role of the Al-Ulum Islamic Education Library in supporting the implementation of the SDGs 4 program was carried out as an effort to recognize the characteristics and abilities of libraries in playing a role in developing students' education. In this case, the specific purpose of this study is to determine the extent of the role of libraries in supporting the sustainability of students in receiving quality education. So that the results of this research are expected to be able to help realize one of the programs of SDGs in the development of quality knowledge of Al-Ulum students and can improve the quality of education in Indonesia.

METHODS

In this research process, researchers use qualitative methods with a type of case study research that aims to find and gain a deep understanding of selected informants through purposive sampling, which is a sampling technique based on certain considerations with the purpose and purpose of the research (Emzir, 2016). The criteria for participants are library librarians and students of Al-Ulum Terpadu Medan students who are involved in activities and users of library services to refer to SDGs 4. The total number of librarians who are willing to participate in this research is one librarian, namely the Library librarian and three students of the Medan Integrated Al-Ulum Islamic College. All speakers participated in interviews conducted using semi-structural techniques. The collected data is analyzed using Thematic analysis, a method to identify and analyze patterns or themes that are considered important to describe the results of the analysis, which is the basis for the preparation of results and discussion (Heriyanto, 2018).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The theme of the library program is obtained from grouping similar themes, namely library programs, providing access to information, cooperation, and training on human resource development. The theme group can be defined into one broad theme, namely, the library program
has a role in supporting the implementation of SDGs 4. The theme group is the role that can be carried out by the library of the Medan Integrated Al-Ulum Islamic College in supporting the implementation of SDGs 4.

The first group of themes, namely library programs, explains that each library has its own functions and objectives based on the parent institution that houses it. Libraries can support the goals of SDGs 4, namely ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and increasing lifelong learning opportunities for all. The library supports SDGs 4 by providing dedicated staff who support early literacy and lifelong learning, access to information and research for students everywhere, and providing inclusive spaces where the cost is not prohibitive for users to acquire new knowledge and skills.

Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library Medan organizes a loan program with an agreement that aims to allow users to still access information resources without having to come to the library based on applicable conditions. Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library Medan provides longer service hours in support of the goals of SDGs 4. The difference in information service programs is because each library has different policies and service objectives.

Table 1. The Role of Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library in Supporting Program Sustainable Development Goal

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Library Roles</th>
<th>Short Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Program Library</td>
<td>The Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library in Medan should be responsible for the implementation of knowledge-based industrial programs. However, the Al-Ulum Integrated Medan school library currently does not hold a special program that should be able to support the improvement of the quality of students’ education. However, in the near future, the library intends to hold a &quot;Child Friendly Library&quot; program. The creation of a Child-Friendly Library because it saw the low interest in reading from Indonesian children. Therefore, this program is targeted at children because Increased Interest in Reading will be more effective if targeted at them so that reading becomes a habit, so it needs to be habituated as early as possible.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Provision of Access to Information</td>
<td>The integrated Al-Ulum Islamic College Library Medan provides an online library. The goal is that users can still access information resources even when they are not physically present in the library. In addition, the Al-Ulum school library also provides internet facilities equipped with OPAC applications to make it easier for users to find the library materials</td>
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they want. However, access to the internet is also very limited. For physical access, the Al-Ulum Integrated Medan Islamic College Library has provided quite complete library materials, ranging from collections of 000-900. However, there are shortcomings in its properties, such as bookshelves that are inadequate for children, so they are often constrained in retrieving library materials.

3. Library Cooperation

To support information literacy and lifelong learning, providing access to information for academic purposes supported by cooperation can help obtain new knowledge easily. Therefore, school libraries must be willing to collaborate with various learning communities to realize a generation of long-life learners. But in fact, the library of Al-Ulum Islamic College is not so special in accepting cooperation. The cooperation program that the Al-Ulum school library does only reaches cooperation with the School Foundation, Pikah Junior High School, and cooperation with the government through DANABOS. For cooperation in procuring collections, only the Junior High School routinely helps.

4. HR Training Development

Al-Ulum school library participates in various librarianship training through human resource development training programs through user services. Not only participating in a training activity, the library also often participates in Librarian Competency Seminars and Workshops. Training activities that are usually attended by libraries vary in type, such as training on Technical Guidance for the Senayan Library Management System (SLIMS) Application and special services at libraries. The Library should also be able to propose the holding of other training programs related to SDGs in order to educate users because quality information and learning services in school libraries are able to contribute to the actualization of SDGs.

In the field of education, the mission of Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library is to promote Sustainable Development Goals by contributing fresh information as well as potential solutions. Research, discovery, and production of new knowledge are the three pillars on which the influence of the Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library on the development of society and technology is based. Better quality education can lead to improved development outcomes for individuals and communities (Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)-Australia/Pacific in collaboration with Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) and the global SDSN Secretariat, 2017). This is the educational focus of the SDGs 4 program, which aims
to create quality education. Better education is one of the Sustainable Development Goals that libraries can help with.

Discussion

Libraries are actually an important part of every process of development of knowledge science. Therefore, libraries should be able to help achieve ongoing UN programs. As the heart of the school, the school library plays an important role in improving the quality of education. Based on Government Decree No. 24 states that "school libraries are an integral part of learning activities and function as learning resource centers to support the achievement of school educational goals". Thus, it is very clear that the role of school libraries as a supporting source to meet the information and learning needs of students, teachers, and other school residents is very important. Its existence is one of the aspects that can support quality education in schools (Bps, 2018).

Standard Library

The national standard for school libraries explains that school libraries, ideally, the type of collection owned include books (textbooks, curriculum support books, reading books, reference books, and biography books); periodicals (magazines, newspapers); Audiovisual; and multimedia (Dhamayanti, Lucya, 2019). Based on these standards, when applied by schools in libraries, access to library collections varies greatly. This further strengthens the role of the library as a facilitator and supporter of learning as well as an enhancer of the quality of teaching in the school. In addition, based on the National Library Standards, it is explained that school libraries must at least offer and enrich their library materials by:

1) The library enriches the collection and provides library materials in at least various forms of media and formats:
   a. Textbook 1 copy per subject per learner
   b. Educator's handbook one copy per subject teacher field of study
2) Enrichment books with a ratio of 60% nonfiction and 40% fiction (Yulianti, 2019).
3) The library increases the collection of books per year with the provision that the greater the number of collections, the smaller the percentage of additional collections.
4) The library subscribes to at least one magazine title and one newspaper title.

The position and function of the school library are very strategic. The law requires that every school can establish a library that meets national library standards (Suhardi, 2022). Based on the statement, it is stated that school libraries must have a collection of textbooks which are compulsory
school textbooks, in sufficient quantities to serve all students and teachers (Jimas, 2022). In addition, school libraries must also develop other collections that support the implementation of the curriculum and pay attention to library services based on information and communication technology.

In this case, we can also see library standards that contribute to quality education through 5 concepts, namely running library programs, providing access to information, library cooperation, training on human resource development carried out by the library, especially by librarians, and obstacles experienced by libraries. The results of this study concluded that Al-Ulum School Library had not been included in the library standards that, as a whole, are able to help the implementation of the SDGs 4 program, namely quality education.

**Program Library**

The library program in question is a library program that is proclaimed as a role in supporting the implementation of SDGs 4 (Morintoh, 2022). The proper library program explains that each library has its own functions and purposes based on the main institution it occupies. Libraries can support SDGs 4 goals, such as ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and increasing lifelong learning opportunities for all. Libraries should provide dedicated staff to support early literacy and lifelong learning, provide access to information and research for students everywhere, and enable users to discover and acquire knowledge and develop new knowledge in support of SDG 4.

The Al-Ulum Terpadu Medan school library currently does not hold a special program that should be able to support the improvement of the quality of students' education. However, the informant said that in the near future, the library intends to hold a "Child Friendly Library" program. The library in question is a library where all parties must be kind and positive towards children. This library is specially intended for children as early as possible. Child-friendly libraries must be able to understand the needs of children's growth and development, libraries that respond to children's wishes according to their age and maturity, regardless of gender, race, ethnic origin, and social status (Alam, 2021). The purpose of creating this Child-Friendly Library is because it sees the low interest in reading from Indonesian children who tend to prefer to play with gadgets. Therefore, this program is targeted at children because Increased Interest in Reading will be more effective if targeted at them so that reading becomes a habit, so it needs to be habituated as early as possible.
Although currently, the Al-Ulum School Library does not have special activities in its library, the school and library are able to improve the quality of education of students from other paths, such as recommending students in every literacy activity they have participated in, namely the creation and short story reading competition held by the Literacy Bimtek of the Medan City Education and Culture Office and won third place.

Figure 1. Documentation of Prize Presentation at Literacy Bimtek Activities

(Original: Ig@smpislamalulumterpadumedan)

Provision of Access to Information

The provision of access to the information in question is related to school library activities in supporting the implementation of the SDGs 4 program. In the midst of the current era of information transformation, school libraries also need to make new breakthroughs to improve the quality and quantity of services to their users, such as providing access to information in online libraries that can be reached by anyone for free in the form of e-libraries (Sos, 2021).

As an important unit that supports the realization of the school’s vision and mission and as an institution that supports the implementation of the school curriculum, the school library must be able to support the school curriculum that reflects the development of science and technology (Falah, 2021). According to the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003, Article 36, paragraph 3, states that “the school curriculum is adjusted to the level of education of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and takes into account the development of science, technology and art”. This means that libraries today must be able to improve the management of service systems to provide efficiency and accuracy of services and the availability of information sources in accordance with their development (Andayani, 2020).
In addition to the online library, the Al-Ulum school library also provides internet facilities equipped with OPAC applications to make it easier for users to find the library materials they want. However, access to the internet is also very limited.

Figure 2. Web Visual Display of SLIMS-based Integrated Al-Ulum Library

(Source: https://perpustakaan.alulumterpadu.sch.id/)

As one of the facilities in the teaching and learning process, the school library has the most important function, namely education. The usual service provided by school libraries is the provision of reading materials for their users. The collection in the library of Al-Ulum School is arguably complete because collections ranging from classification 000 to classification 900 are already available in the library. However, non-fiction collections or collections of classes 000-600 are very rarely used in the library, students are more interested in fiction collections. Then the Library can also play a role in improving the quality of inclusive and equitable education through the provision of good and comfortable spaces. In the library of Al-Ulum School, the space is ideal for school library standards. However, there are shortcomings in its properties, such as bookshelves that are inadequate for children, so they are often constrained in retrieving library materials.

Library Cooperation

In the cooperation program, it must be able to explain the role of libraries in supporting the achievement of SDGs 4 programs through cooperation with other institutions or entities to improve service quality. The informant said that without cooperation with other parties, the library could not possibly provide comprehensive information services. School libraries should be open to cooperation with other colleges and learning communities that need access to information. The existing cooperation has special programs aimed at developing and improving the quality of
different cooperation actors.

Cooperation in human resource development is also needed to improve the quality of library services (Natapradja, 2021). The informant said that to support information literacy and lifelong learning, providing access to information for academic purposes supported by cooperation would easily acquire new knowledge. Therefore, school libraries must be willing to collaborate with various learning communities to realize a generation of long-life learners.

But in fact, the library of Al-Ulum Islamic College is not so special in accepting cooperation, the cooperation program that the Al-Ulum school library does only reaches cooperation with the School Foundation, Pikah Junior High School, and cooperation with the government through DANABOS. For cooperation in procuring collections, only the Junior High School routinely helps.

**Human Resource Development Training**

Training programs for users and librarians are the library’s efforts to provide new knowledge. Al-Ulum school library also participates in various librarianship training through human resource development training programs through online user services, which are usually held by the PERPUSNAS. The informant said that it is not certain that in a year, the library participated in this training activity.

Through the training program, informants said that many would acquire new knowledge and skills, which would be useful for maximizing services to users. As the informant said, the program carried out by the library training is useful for the development of new knowledge of librarians. Not only participating in training activities, but the library also often participates in Librarian Competency Seminars and Workshops held some time ago by the Medan State University Library.

Training activities that are usually attended by libraries vary in type, such as training on Technical Guidance for the Senayan Library Management System (SLIMS) Application and special services at libraries. In this case, the Library should also be able to propose the holding of other training programs related to SDGs in order to educate users because the quality information and learning services available in school libraries are able to contribute to the actualization of SDGs (Emezie & Igwe, 2020).

**Library Constraints**

Constraints are the library’s last concept related to activities and policies that support the SDGs 4 program. Constraints are things that can hinder libraries from achieving their goals, which
usually come from many factors. Internal constraints are usually such as library policies that are closely related to the policies of the parent institution. In general, school libraries in Indonesia still experience many obstacles, so they can hamper the process as they should. The Al-Ulum Islamic College Library Medan they have a very difficult obstacle to solve, namely the difficulty of accreditation from the library. Library Accreditation itself is part of a series of activities in the formal recognition process by LAP-PNRI, which certifies that a library institution has met the minimum requirements to carry out library management activities, so the general requirement is to know in advance the academic institution that wants to be accredited. Because the Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Library Medan is a joint library of three academic institutions, namely elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools, so in this case, it is very troublesome for libraries to be able to establish cooperation between libraries.

In addition, other obstacles in the implementation of the SDGs 4 program in libraries are that many students are not interested in visiting school libraries just because the collections are just that and not relevant to their interests, the lack of supporting facilities such as special shelves for children and the lack of internet access to the library and human resources as a driver of achieving library goals are still lacking. Another vital obstacle is the lack of budget to implement library programs that affect the continuity of library services in the sense that the existence of school libraries still lacks attention from the school. This library also experiences readiness constraints in providing the widest possible public services as the goals of SDGs 4. In brief, here are some of the obstacles experienced by Al-Ulum School in carrying out school library management:

1) It is difficult to obtain school accreditation which makes it difficult to establish cooperation
2) Lack of operational funds for school libraries. In general, funds are a problem in almost all agencies
3) There are still limited human resources who are able to manage school libraries.
4) There is still low concern from the school for library development
5) Very limited facilities and infrastructure are needed to support the existence of school libraries, such as limited internet access.
6) The school library is still considered a complementary means.
7) There are no regulations regarding special hours for students to carry out activities in the library.

Such as the absence of a certain schedule for the library listed in the curriculum, so that indirectly
the function of the school library is only as a place to borrow books during school breaks. They have no time to spend in the school library because there is no time specifically for the activity.

CONCLUSION

The Medan Integrated Al-Ulum Islamic College Library has a very important role in supporting the implementation of the SDGs 4 program. The role of the library is implemented by providing open access to information for the academic community at the Medan Integrated Al-Ulum Islamic College. Libraries need to organize training programs for students, librarians, and teachers to improve the competence of teachers and students, as well as collaborate with various parties outside the library of Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Medan.

This study shows that the library at Al-Ulum Integrated Islamic College Medan has not been clearly able to assist the government in realizing the sustainable development goals program, especially in quality education programs, in the sense that the library has not played an active role in supporting the implementation of sustainable development goals 4. The fundamental reason is that the library and the school have not been fully aware of the importance of the existence of the library for improving the quality of their students’ education. Leaving the library without any program is one of the answers that the school is still ignorant of the development of student education. In addition, the lack of cooperation and training from human resources, in particular, is also the reason for the lack of role of the library of the Medan Integrated Al-Ulum Islamic College in the implementation of the SDGs 4 program. So, in this case, the realization of a program regularly in libraries, cooperation between several libraries, and regular training will be able to increase the role of libraries in terms of education.

REFERENCES


