



## **PREVENTION OF BULLYING, EARLY MARRIAGE, AND LITERACY ENHANCEMENT FOR STUDENTS ON GERANTING ISLAND**

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**Abstract.** Education plays a crucial role as a second home in shaping character, improving literacy, and fostering students' interest in reading. However, the prevalence of bullying and early marriage in schools poses a serious challenge that must be addressed. This study aims to prevent bullying and early marriage and improve students' literacy and reading interest on Geranting Island through an outreach program implemented at Kindergarten 10 Batam, SDN 013 Belakang Padang, and SMPN 33 Batam. A qualitative approach was used, collecting primary data through direct observation and interaction, as well as secondary data from a literature review. The outreach program included anti-bullying education, early marriage prevention, and literacy strengthening using interactive methods involving students and teachers. Results showed increased student awareness of the importance of positive character, the dangers of bullying, the negative impacts of early marriage, and the benefits of literacy and reading interest. Despite obstacles such as participant absences and disruptions to other activities, the program ran smoothly and had a positive impact. Therefore, strengthening character education, literacy, and early marriage prevention needs to be continuously developed as an effort to develop a young generation that is independent, critical, and competitive.

**Keyword:** Bullying, Early Marriage, Literacy Enhancement.

### **INTRODUCTION**

According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), the word "education" comes from the word "didik" with the prefix "pe" and the suffix "an," so this word means a method, way, or action of guiding. Teaching can be defined as a way of changing the ethics and behavior of individuals or society in an effort to achieve independence in order to mature or educate humans through education, learning, guidance, and coaching. Education also shapes the character of students, and educators are also educated by education. Since 2010, the Minister of National Education has commemorated National Education Day with the theme "Character education to build national civilization." This theme emerged due to concerns about the character displayed by the nation's children in today's life (Erna, 2022). Sometimes educators do not nurture the character of their students, so many children do not know what is right and what is wrong.

Recently, there have been frequent reports of violence in schools, both by peers and teachers. According to the Indonesian Teachers' Union Federation (FSGI), there were 30 cases of bullying in schools throughout 2023. This number has increased from 21 cases in the previous year. As many as 80% of bullying cases in 2023 occurred in schools under the Ministry of



Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek), and 20% in schools under the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Of the 30 cases of bullying in 2023, 50% occurred at the junior high school/equivalent level, 30% at the elementary school/equivalent level, 10% at the high school/equivalent level, and 10% at the vocational high school/equivalent level (Yulrina, 2024). This is certainly very concerning for the world of education in Indonesia. Bullying itself can take the form of words, either directly or indirectly, and can also take the form of attitudes or treatment. According to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the

Republic of Indonesia, bullying itself is divided into four types, namely physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying, and cyber bullying. In addition, bullying itself has several types of actions, such as teasing, exclusion, physical, and harassment. An example of teasing is mocking, insulting, harassing, yelling at, or disturbing the victim through communication devices (Siti Tiara Maulia et al., 2024). Thus, the high incidence of bullying has led to students not knowing where to turn for help, prompting many to consider early marriage as a place to vent their frustrations. The phenomenon of early marriage has recently resurfaced.

This is because more than one request for early marriage dispensation has been submitted, and the number of dispensations requested is quite high. In 2022, there were 569 children under the age of 129 who applied for early marriage dispensations in Kediri, making Kediri one of the 10 cities or districts with the highest number of early marriage cases in East Java. The average age of children applying for underage marriage is 15-17 years old. There are many factors behind the high number of applications, including economic reasons, customary law, education, and even children who are pregnant outside of marriage. In addition to character building, educators must also build literacy so that they can filter the information presented to students. Therefore, literacy and reading interest from an early age are important. As educators, we must foster a spirit of literacy so that students are more critical in filtering the information they receive. We also encourage reading interest so that students do not just read, but also deepen their understanding of what they read. . (Restapaty & Iedliany, 2022)

According to (Restapaty & Iedliany, 2022), the School Literacy Movement is a central government program implemented through the Ministry of Education and Culture. Literacy in Latin is called literatus, which means a person who learns. Broadly speaking, literacy itself is a general term that refers to a person's ability and skills in reading, writing, speaking, calculating,



and solving problems in everyday life. In other words, literacy cannot be separated from a person's ability to use language. Reading is one of the most important activities in life (Astuti et al., 2022).

## **METHODOLY**

Education on strengthening nationalism and cyber security literacy awareness is targeted at students of TK N 10 Batam, SDN 013 Belakang Padang, and SMPN 33 Batam. The target is more directed at students because of the field conditions and technology mastery (Fransiska, 2024). Geranting Island is predominantly populated by parents who work daily around the sea. In addition, there are very few young men and women because many have migrated. The most fundamental reason for delivering education aimed at the younger generation is because they better understand the ins and outs of the virtual world. This is necessary as material for us to build literacy and interest in reading so that students do not fall into this increasingly prevalent digital world.

This way, their knowledge of technology will certainly be more mature compared to the previous generation. This reason is the basis for selecting students from TKN 10 Batam, SDN 013 Belakang Padang, and SMPN 33 Batam as the targets for the socialization program. The socialization activities that we carried out with the elementary and junior high schools went well without any obstacles. The venues for the activities were SDN 013 Belakang Padang and SMPN 33 Batam. Meanwhile, the kindergarten conducted educational activities by teaching the children the names of animals and completing blurred letters. During the program, the students of SDN 013 Belakang Padang and SMPN 33 Batam were given different socialization schedules, but during the implementation, they were brought together in a spacious classroom. The speakers presented the material in turns. The activities were held for four days, starting from August 13 to 15, 2025, at SDN 013 Belakang Padang, and the outreach at SMPN 33 Batam was held on August 19, 2025. The activities were held from morning until completion. Through the implementation of literacy and reading interest programs, as well as the prevention of early marriage and bullying, it is hoped that participants will understand the topics discussed, apply them in their daily lives, and share this important information with everyone they know or are close to (Sihombing et al., 2024).

The technical implementation of the activity consists of activity preparation, material design, material presentation, and evaluation. The socialization to increase literacy and reading interest and prevent early marriage and bullying was carried out at SMPN 33 Batam and SDN 013 Belakang Padang as part of the work program proposed by the Education Cluster Education



Cluster. The activity design was carried out to ensure that all the progress that had been planned ran smoothly. This process included observing the school, determining the theme and form of the activity, and preparing the equipment needed to carry out the socialization. The materials were designed to maximize the delivery of the material within a limited time. The material covered anti-bullying, the prevention of early marriage, and reading literacy. The material presented in the presentation was the result of the speakers' ideas, which were processed using certain media to make them more interesting. (Seto, 2023).

The presentation of the material (execution) was the most crucial part of the program. The material was delivered in two sessions, the first and second sessions. The first session was held at the kindergarten and was presented by Saudara Nasya Izzah Harahap, who is the Head of the Education Cluster. The second session was held with the presentation of anti-bullying material delivered by Saudari Putri Dayanti Herfa, who is a mathematics student. The material presented by the two speakers focused on raising awareness among students at SMPN 33 Batam. The third session was presented by Ms. Desi Lili Susanti Nasution, followed by material on early marriage presented by Mr. Jamaluddin Lobang, who also brought material to SMPN 33 Batam again related to literacy and reading interest. (Arianto et al., 2024).

The students approached their partners by chatting casually in the teachers' room. The students were required to interact with the teachers at SMPN 33 Batam, SDN 013 Belakang Padang, and TK N 10 Batam so that there would be no awkwardness between them. They also approached the students with a brief introduction in front of the class, which made the atmosphere more relaxed. Creating a calm and relaxed atmosphere was key to the success of the program. With their calmness and ability to control the forum, the two presenters successfully approached the partner students.

The presenters asked several questions to the forum so that the class would not be passive. Although conducive education is better, interactive classes are more interesting. The successful implementation of education is not without mistakes or oversights. Therefore, evaluation, which is part of the technical activities, is expected to improve the quality of the program. The research used in writing this article was conducted using a qualitative approach. It states that a qualitative approach is an approach that focuses on science or social life in accordance with real conditions in a comprehensive, complex, and detailed manner. The qualitative approach places the key on the researcher because the researcher must have broad theories and extensive knowledge to



analyze the research object clearly. The data collection method was carried out empirically in the field (Firmansyah & Prasada, 2023).

## **RESULT AND DISSCUSION**

The Education Cluster guided students on Geranting Island to develop character education by assisting educators at TK N 010 Batam in teaching students to recognize animal names and complete blurred letters. The session was led by Ms. Nasya Izzah Harahap and supervised by the leader of group 21, Kenkai Hanzel Manuliang. The next session was held at SDN 013 Belakang Padang, where the material was led by Putri Dayanti Harefa. The material presented was Anti-Bullying, and the delivery of the material was carried out alternately. The how the community service activity was conducted. Explain the program's implementation process, the involvement of the organizing team, as well as supporting and challenging factors encountered during the activity. The next session was at SMPN 33 Belakang Padang, led by Ms. Desi Lili Susanti Nasution, who also delivered the material alternately with the material (Yuliastuty et al., 2024).

Jamaluddin Lombang discussed the prevention of early marriage. He delivered the material individually, while our members only helped to secure the audience. In the last session, Jamaluddin conducted a socialization program on literacy and reading interest. He had a deep understanding of the material, so he delivered it individually (Sonia Afrilia Sari et al., 2024).

When teaching kindergarteners, attendance was not 100%. Only 9 out of 15 students attended because some were sick and some were from the other island. The implementation in the school room was safe for us to participate in helping the kindergarten teachers teach the students because there were only 9 people. At SDN 013 Batam, we conducted an anti-bullying socialization program that was combined for grades 1-6 with the help of the teachers. The participation was very enthusiastic in the socialization that we brought. SMP N 33 Batam also combined classes 7-9 for anti-bullying and early marriage prevention. At that time, many did not participate due to rainy weather, so many were absent, but the students were still enthusiastic about the socialization we carried out. The last socialization program, which was about literacy and reading interest, was not very conducive because there was a competition held at SD N 013 Belakang Padang.

The first speaker, Ms. Nasya, led the teaching activity at TK N 10 Batam, which began with ice breaking before moving on to the main lesson, which was to introduce the students to the names of 10 animals that we brought for the students at TK N 10 Batam to learn ( ). After several

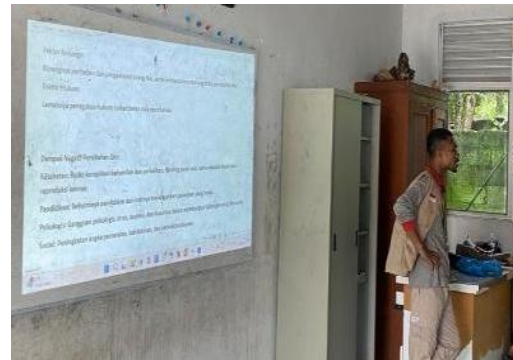


hours of teaching, the kindergarten students became familiar with the animals. Then, after a few minutes of break, they returned to the classroom before continuing with the ice breaking activity so that they could focus more on the next lesson. After the ice breaking activity, they continued with the lesson on completing blurred letters. The students followed the lesson very well and enthusiastically (Muklim & Palopo, 2023).

The next speaker was at SDN 013 Belakang Padang Elementary School regarding anti bullying, led by Putri Dayanti Harefa to prevent bullying, including digital bullying, which is already included in Geranting. This socialization was held so that students would not engage in small acts such as teasing each other. Students are often unaware of the teasing they do on social media or in real life. The presentation also provided guidance on the types of bullying that occur in schools, homes, and the virtual world. This socialization also encouraged students to be active and made them aware that what they were doing was wrong.

The third presentation was also related to anti-bullying and the prevention of early marriage. The anti-bullying material was led by Ms. Desi Lili Susanti Nasution, while the material on the prevention of early marriage was presented by Jamaluddin Lobang. The material presented was almost the same as that for elementary school, but we encouraged the students to share their feelings and whether they had ever been victims of bullying that made them not want to go to school. This created a lively atmosphere for our socialization program. After opening up, many children admitted that they had been victims of bullying at school. Moving on to early marriage, it appears that many cases occur in junior high schools. Marriages involving underage individuals occur because of early marriage. We brought this socialization to raise awareness among the students at SMPN 33 Batam. The material presented was related to the definition of early marriage and explained the future impacts of early marriage, as well as the factors that cause early marriage.

The fourth material presented was literacy and reading interest, which was presented by Mr. Jamaluddin. Literacy is the ability or quality of literacy in a person, which includes the ability to read, write, and also recognize and understand ideas visually. In delivering the literacy material, the method used was a two-way dialogue: the Education Cluster presented the material and asked the students questions directly, then the students could give their views on literacy.



At SMP Negeri 33 Batam, literacy rates are quite low. Students tend not to understand what they read and are even unable to rewrite what they have read. Because of this, the education cluster tried to increase interest in reading through socialization using simple materials and everyday language. The education cluster conveyed the benefits of literacy, factors in fostering interest in reading, how to start reading, etc. on the tangible outcomes of the program, such as improvements in knowledge/skills, behavioral changes, innovative products, training modules, technological applications, or empowerment models developed. Include specific success indicators that align with the program's objectives.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

The fourth presentation was on literacy and reading interest, delivered by Mr. Jamaluddin. Literacy is the ability or quality of literacy within a person, which includes the ability to read, write, and also recognize and understand ideas visually. In delivering the literacy material, the method used was a two-way dialogue: the Education Cluster presented the material and asked questions directly to the students, who then shared their views on literacy.



At SMP Negeri 33 Batam, the literacy rate is quite low. Students tend not to understand what they read and are even unable to rewrite what they have read. Because of this, the education cluster tries to increase reading interest through socialization using simple materials and everyday language. The education cluster conveys the benefits of literacy, factors in fostering reading interest, how to start reading, etc.

Education plays a crucial role as a second home for students in shaping character, enhancing literacy, and fostering reading interest. Through an outreach program conducted by Education Cluster Group 21 of the Riau Islands University Community Service Team on Geranting Island, education on preventing bullying, early marriage, and strengthening literacy and interest in reading was successfully implemented at TK N 10 Batam, SDN 013 Belakang Padang, and SMPN 33 Batam.

This activity shows that an interactive and communicative approach can increase students' awareness of the importance of good character, the dangers of bullying, and the negative impacts of early marriage. In addition, the socialization of literacy and reading interest provides students with an understanding of the importance of reading and writing skills as essential tools in everyday life.

Despite several obstacles, such as participant absences and disruptions from other activities, the program ran smoothly and had a positive impact. Therefore, strengthening character education, literacy, and early marriage prevention needs to be continuously developed as an effort to shape an independent, critical, and competitive young generation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The suggestions we can offer are Continuous Strengthening of Character Education, whereby schools and educators need to continue developing character education programs that are integrated into the curriculum and daily activities so that students can understand and internalize positive values consistently. On the other hand, increasing awareness and handling of bullying needs to be done as training material for teachers and educational staff to recognize, prevent, and handle bullying cases effectively. In addition, schools must provide a safe reporting mechanism and psychological support for victims of bullying.

We recommend that there be more intensive socialization on the prevention of early marriage. This socialization program, which covers the negative impacts of early marriage, must



be expanded and involve parents and the community so that a common understanding and awareness can be formed, thereby reducing the rate of early marriage.

On the other hand, the development of literacy and reading interest from an early age is also necessary. Schools need to provide attractive literacy facilities and programs that suit children's interests, including the use of interactive learning media, so that reading interest can grow and develop optimally. Collaboration with Various Parties Cooperation between schools, families, the government, and the community is very important to create an environment conducive to character development, literacy, and the prevention of early marriage and bullying.

We also recommend utilizing technology positively, given the development of the digital world, digital literacy must also be improved so that students can use technology wisely and avoid negative impacts such as cyberbullying.

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