

## Analysis of the Role of the Indonesian Christian Student Movement (GMKI) Medan Branch in Improving Cadre Information Literacy through the Literacy Movement

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the role of the Medan branch of the Indonesian Christian Student Movement in increasing the information literacy of cadres through the literacy movement. The method of this research is descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Data collection techniques used interviews, observations and document studies. Based on the research, it was found that GMKI Medan Branch performs its role as a forum for learning, developing creativity to the application of knowledge through the provision of training programs through book review programs, book reviews, journalistic training, discussing topics that are developing in the community, and leadership training and others. The driving factor for GMKI's role in increasing cadre information literacy is the lack of literacy and communication culture that produces commitment. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factor for GMKI's role in increasing information literacy is the absence of a special program on the literacy movement. The conclusion shows that GMKI performs its role in increasing the information literacy of cadres even though it is in the basic stages. But this has answered one of the tasks of youth as agents of change.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The development of technology at this time is very rapid, especially technology in the field of information and communication. This allows the public to quickly obtain various information. So it does not rule out the possibility of spreading unfiltered information to the wider community. This wide and unlimited spread of information will trigger the mixing of fact and hoax or fake information. This is what tests the community's ability to judge whether information is useful or not. The ability to assess information must be owned by the community. Given the very diverse information needs that are scattered randomly in the digital world. So that the ability to identify, analyze and evaluate information and media in finding appropriate, accurate, credible and up-to-date information or content is a must. The ability to understand, access, analyze, evaluate and communicate information in the form of media content is a must have so as not to be carried away by the flow of hoax information from messages spread in mass and digital media.

Indonesia is faced with the Asean Economic Community (AEC). In realizing the MEA, the Indonesian people, especially the young intellectuals as agents of change, must improve themselves so that they become the right answer to answer global challenges. The Indonesian people are now in an abundance of information, at a time when the literacy rate is almost 90% (according to UNESCO 80.9%), while their reading habits are numbered, Internet fraud and cybercrime are increasing. Access to pornography is getting easier, hoaxes and insults on social media aka cyber bullying are rampant, politicians make promises (and lies) via Twitter, and so on, and so on. More than just being able and fond of reading, a person now needs the ability to communicate and use the Internet intelligently, critically, and creatively for various purposes of life. One way is to improve self-quality to respond to global challenges by establishing a quality development parameter in accordance with the dynamics of the times. Self-quality can be formed through an information by understanding, using, analyzing, and transforming it. This is what makes a person called literate.

Basically, the media does not only provide information and entertainment, but also invites the audience to represent the messages recorded by the readers. Information literacy according to ALA (1989: 10) " Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively needed information ". That is, information literacy is defined as a person's ability to identify the information he needs, access and find information, evaluate information, and use information effectively and ethically.

Currently, youth are very active in following technological developments, especially social media. Social media contains various kinds of information that do not rule out the emergence of various threats in dividing the unity and integrity of the nation. Therefore, youth play a major role in countering these threats through information literacy skills. Youth is the government's partner in spreading positive things and messages of nationality so that they can influence Indonesian society at large. Youth is one component of the nation that has a strategic role in national development.

The Indonesian Christian Student Movement is part of the youth spread across various regions, and is expected to be the front line in maintaining the integrity of the nation from all aspects that threaten national unity. GMKI cadres are also expected to participate in fighting information that is not clearly sourced which can cause chaos between groups and groups. One aspect that can threaten the unity of the nation comes from the information that spreads rapidly without limits. In responding to these advances in information technology, GMKI as a youth must have an attitude of maturity in order to be wise in taking advantage of these facilities. If used properly, the process of equitable development will be more easily realized. The use of technology, social media and other sources of information in the context of national unity and integrity must be in accordance with the contents of Pancasila, especially the first, third and fifth precepts.

Many parties who care about literacy have given birth to various "literacy movements" to support the government in solving various socio-cultural problems through the compulsory reading movement from an early age. Literacy movement by the government which is responsible for managing books and reading, namely library institutions. This is also an effort to promote existing facilities for the public to increase the number of visitors and access. Various literacy activities and programs in the community in terms of linguistic and social observers can be referred to as "literacy practice". In other words, literacy is not merely a technique and the ability to read, although the basis is literacy, but literacy is the overall ability of a person to communicate and use written language for various purposes of life. The literacy movement can also be carried out by providing discussions, workshops, training and others.

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

Information literacy is also called information literacy which is an awareness of one's information needs, identifying, accessing effectively and efficiently, evaluating and legally incorporating information into knowledge and communicating that information (Lasa HS, 2009). Based on the above definition, it can be said that information literacy is an ability that a person has to access, evaluate and re-communicate information that has been obtained according to his interests.

The benefits of information literacy or information literacy according to Adam (2009), namely: 1) Help make decisions; 2) Become a human learner in the knowledge economy era; 3) Creating new knowledge. Meanwhile, the objectives of information literacy are: 1) To enable a person to be able to access and obtain information about their health, environment, education, work and others; 2) Guide them in making critical decisions about their lives; 3) Be more responsible for their health and education.

The literacy movement is an effort made to invite the community to increase a culture of interest in reading which will later lead to the stage of developing learning funds. Ditjen Dikdasmen (2016) states that the literacy movement is carried out to improve reading skills so that knowledge can be mastered better. The literacy movement is one of the programs of the Ministry of Education and Culture which has been initiated since 2016. This movement is an

implementation of the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 323 of 2015 concerning the Growth of Character. Basic literacy which includes in the Literacy Movement, namely: 1) Literacy reading and writing; 2) Numerical literacy; 3) Science Literacy; 4) Financial Literacy; 5) Digital literacy; 6) Cultural Literacy and Citizenship.

Youth is one of the nation's tools in strengthening and uniting the nation from all threats that try to divide the nation's unity. According to the Youth Law No. 40 of 2009, youth are Indonesian citizens who are entering an important period of growth and development aged 16 to 30 years. History has proven that youth is one of the pillars that has a big role in the journey of the life of the nation and state so that the progress and decline of a country are more or less determined by the thoughts and active contributions of the youth in the country.

The role of youth according to Miko (2012), namely: 1) Agent of Change; 2) Agent of Development; 3) Agent of Modernization. The roles, responsibilities, and rights of youth require youth to play an active role as moral strength, social control, and agents of change in all aspects of national development.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In this study, the method used is descriptive with a qualitative approach to determine the role of GMKI as a youth organization in increasing the information literacy of GMKI Medan branch cadres through the literacy movement. This research was conducted at a student organization, namely the Indonesian Christian Student Movement organization which is located at Jl. Iskandar Muda No. 107A Medan. The source of the research was conducted through interviews with several GMKI cadres who had served at the commissariat and branch levels.

The types of data in this study are primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained from interviews with informants, while secondary data is the result of a document review. Data processing and analysis are done by collecting documents for analysis to help strengthen the results of interviews that have been conducted by researchers. Research data are interpreted to obtain broad and deep meaning, and the results are discussed using relevant theories.

## **RESULTS**

The results of the study show that GMKI as a youth fulfills its role. This means that it can choose which ones can be changed and which ones are maintained. GMKI as a student organization holds book review programs, book reviews, journalism training, discussions on topics that are developing in the community, and other training.

## **DISCUSSION**

The role of the GMKI Medan Branch in increasing the information literacy of GMKI cadres through the literacy movement has reflected the role of youth as agents of change, agents of development, and agents of modernization. The agent of change in question is that GMKI Medan Branch plays a role in carrying out the literacy movement to increase information literacy of GMKI Medan branch cadres. Activities such as discussions held regularly by the branch and each

commissariat will certainly help cadres to be better able to analyze information. So that it brings the flow of change for the better. There is an era relationship between discussion and one's literacy for information. This spurred the cadres to understand the writing or the theme being discussed. It will also compare the ideas of each cadre, thereby generating new knowledge that has an impact on the cadre's problem-solving and decision-making process. The development agent in question is that the role that GMKI has performed by building a mini library is to support cadre activities both in lectures and in preparing discussion materials.

In addition, GMKI builds an internet network as a literacy-friendly physical building. Finally, the agents of modernization in question are movements to improve the ability of cadres to access information technology wisely and responsibly. Because the provision of ethics and morals in responding to the flow of information technology must be prioritized. Because, the existence of modernity does not only occur in technological progress but also relates to a change in awareness, morals, ethics, and social order. The field branch of GMKI created a forum by forming a bulletin team, which aims to improve the writing skills of cadres, where each commissariat will take turns sending their writings about events that are developing within GMKI and outside GMKI.

The driving factors for the role of GMKI in increasing cadre information literacy through literacy movements in supporting the role of youth are 1) the lack of literacy culture; it means GMKI is aware that condition literacy moment this is what is depicted with enemy generation is inability generation young in process information. 2) communication that generates commitment; it means GMKI must build communication and a committed commitment to various parties outside GMKI such as academics, organization students others , community, and government through various State agencies.

Factor blocker GMKI 's role in increasing literate information cadre through movement literacy in support role youth, namely 1) lack of motivation; manage organization many obstacles and the dilemma \_ in realize effective organization \_ and productive. To increase contribution members to organization needed strong motivation so that members want to give a contribution and volunteer To do various activities as a manifestation his role. 2) No there is a special program for the Medan branch of GMKI regarding movement literacy; without there is a program about movement literacy by special, then no will there is achievements in movement literacy by special good from side goals, procedures , budget, and time implementation also no will clear. 3) Lack of studies to regulation; without existence of studies to regulation this so movement programming \_ literacy by special no there is.

Next Development source power man from the role of GMKI Medan branch in increase literate information cadre touch with impact from the role that. Prepared programs held by the administrator have a close relationship \_ with movement literacy, so should give impact to development source power deep human Thing this is GMKI Medan branch cadres. one \_ impact positive is the existence contribution cadre in make writing both internal and external organization, print media and online which are considered as transformation

knowledge. The essence is from those who don't know Becomes know and those who don't can Becomes.

## **CONCLUSION**

The role of GMKI so far this still limited to the programs covered in five activities. One of them is related to literacy is existence activity Expected discussion \_ capable develop framework think cadre, build emotional think cadre and sharpen power analysis cadre intake decision . But the program no is a special program about movement literacy but could help GMKI 's role in increasing literate information cadre through movement literacy. So that future required studies to policy movement literacy nationally. With no there is a special program for the Medan branch of GMKI regarding movement literacy, of course, Becomes a factor blocker on the role of the GMKI Medan branch in increase the literate information cadre. so far this GMKI has many given birth to literate cadres \_ \_ \_ information. Proven many GMKI cadres who continue education including placement cadres in various fields in government or private . So that GMKI 's role in increasing literate information cadre already walks with a god , thoughnoto through a special program about movement literacy.

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