BORANG PENGESAHAN STATUS TESIS

JUDUL: THE ROLE OF NILAM PROGRAMME IN MOTIVATING PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO INSTILL READING HABIT: A CASE STUDY

SESI PENGAJIAN: 2007/2008

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THE ROLE OF NILAM PROGRAMME IN MOTIVATING PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO INSTILL READING HABIT: A CASE STUDY

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APRIL 2008
I declare that this thesis entitled "The Role of NILAM Programme in Motivating Primary School Students to Instill Reading Habit: A Case Study" is the result of my own research except as cited in the references. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.

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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

To Almighty Allah Subhanahu Wata’ala; He, Who has given me the courage...

Especially to my beloved family,

My parent; Tn. Hj. Mohd Zin b Hj. Markam & Pn. Hjh. Siti Noraimi bt Hj. Salleh,
My brothers and sister; Along, Kak Ude, Apis & Emi
My fiancé, Mohd Taufiq b Md Thakib
My parent in-law to-be; En. Md Thakib b Abdullah & Pn. Adida bt Abd. Majid
My best friends; Siti Salwa bt Mohamad & Samsun Nahariah bt Mohd Maulan

For all the love, spirit, encouragement and faith

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Only Allah can repay your kindness…Amin!
The purpose of this study is to discover the role of NILAM Programme as a reading support programme as a way to motivate students to instill reading habit. 30 students from Standard Five and two English teachers from Sekolah Kebangsaan Bandar Mas were involved in this study. Questionnaires were designed to get the responses from the students and interviews were conducted to get feedback from the teachers. Descriptive analysis was used to present the data. The results show that 97 percent of the respondents agree that NILAM Programme can assist them to instill reading interest and pursue extensive reading. Parents, teachers as well as school play an important role to encourage students to read for this programme. School should allocate an appropriate time for reading activities and provide a wide variety of books to motivate students to read.
ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidik peranan Program NILAM yang merupakan program galakan membaca sebagai langkah untuk memotivasikan pelajar untuk menanam minat membaca. Seramai 30 orang pelajar Darjah Lima dan dua orang guru Bahasa Inggeris dari Sekolah Kebangsaan Bandar Mas terlibat di dalam kajian ini. Soal selidik dibuat untuk mendapatkan pandangan daripada pelajar dan sesi temubual dijalankan untuk mendapatkan pandangan daripada guru-guru. Persembahan data dibuat dengan menggunakan kajian deskriptif. Hasil daripada kajian mendapati bahawa 97 peratus responden bersetuju bahawa Program NILAM dapat membantu mereka menanam minat membaca dan membuat pembacaan yang lebih meluas. Ibu bapa, guru dan sekolah memainkan peranan yang penting untuk menggalakkan pelajar membaca bagi program ini. Selain itu, sekolah juga perlu menyediakan pelbagai pilihan bahan bacaan dan memperuntukkan masa yang sesuai untuk aktiviti membaca.
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

In the Islamic perspective, knowledge is one of the essential assets for human beings which are very important to guide their lives. Thus, Islam stated that the claim for knowledge is compulsory for each individual. Based on the Al-Quran interpretation of Surah Al-‘Alaq, which means;

“Proclaim! (or read!). In the name of thy Lord and Cherisher. Who created-Created man, out of a leech-like clot. Proclaim! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful. He Who taught (the use of) the pen. Taught man that which he knew not.”

According to this Al-Quran interpretation, human being is encouraged to read in order to gain knowledge. The ability to read is important because it is the only way individuals can be educated and continue to learn in their life. Reading is an active skill-based process of constructing meaning and gaining knowledge from visual and written text. Reading can also be conceptualized as a cognitive process of decoding symbols and constructing meaning (Ambigapathy Pandian, 1997).
One of the scholars in the field of reading (Emmett Albert Betts) states that reading is a process to recognize printed symbol by using our sense to interpret it in a meaningful context in a particular language. Reading is a complex process which implicates meaning, mind and sense. In order to construct the meaning the reader should understand the content that they are reading (Zaini Ujang, 1993).

According to Davis (1976), reading is more than just understanding the literal meanings of the word on paper. It is not a passive process, as it involves a complex thinking process which consists of complicated mental abilities employed in the learning and interpretation of the concepts and understanding the words and printed symbols.

1.1 Background Of The Study

In 1998, a new reading programme was introduced by Ministry of education and State Education Department to encourage reading culture at school. The programme is NILAM (Nadi Ilmu Amalan Membaca) programme. The purpose of this programme is to encourage students to read more books besides academic books in order to cultivate the reading habit among students.

According to Datin Hajah Aishah Binti Mohd Zahir (1998), NILAM programme is an organized and continuous programme to develop reading habit among students and it is implemented in school. Schools are encouraged to integrate the NILAM Programme with other activities as long as it can encourage students to read. For instance, teacher can organize story telling competition, which requires students to read a story book before they do their story telling presentation.
Students need to record their reading in a specific book. This is because, at the end of the year, teacher will count how many books that the students have read. The students who had read the most will be awarded. Thus, teacher should ensure that those students’ reading records, marking system for reward and award are synchronized.

The NILAM programme is divided into two levels of reading activities; Level I (JAUHARI) and Level II (RAKAN PEMBACA). In Level I, the purpose of reading activities is to improve students’ reading skills and develop reading habit. Level II, on the other hand emphasizes on students’ ability in guiding and attracting peers’ interest towards reading activities. Guiding and attracting peers interest means that students try to involve their friends in reading activities organized by the school. The activities should be planned properly by taking into consideration several aspects such as reading materials, time allocation, and participation from parents and teachers. Therefore, the school Resource Centre should be the main centre to ensure this programme will be carried out successfully.

1.2 Statement Of The Problem

Based on the Literacy Research Report prepared by Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (PNM) in 1996, it was found that Malaysians read only two books per year. This rate is very low and it shows that Malaysians do not really read. Malaysians’ reading habit is very disappointing. Even though there is a lot of reading programmes introduced by the Ministry of Education in the past, however, they do not work. The more effective effort should be done especially in involving students at the school level in order to make the reading programme carried out successfully. This is to ensure that the reading habit could be instilled in them.
The main reason of Malaysians feeling reluctant to read is because they still have no awareness on the importance of reading. They read only for examination and not for pleasure. The motivation to read is does not come from their own intention. They need somebody else to encourage them to read and provide the reading material for them. Research by Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (1996) found that children started reading at an early age. While reading begins at the age of 2, most of them started reading when they reach at the age of 6 to 7. When they grow up and nobody provides any reading materials, the motivation to read will decrease slowly. Finally, when they become adult, they will refuse to read for pleasure.

As the reading habit should be instilled since the individual at the young age, the Ministry of Education has come out with a new reading programme, the NILAM Programme, at school in order to overcome the reluctance in reading for pleasure in Malaysia. The purpose of this programme is to instil reading habit among the students. It provides a reward for students who read the most. The reward can be assumed as a motivation for the students to read many books.

However, can this programme change students’ attitudes towards reading? Is this programme effective enough to cultivate the reading habit among the students? What are the main factors that make the students read? With this question in mind, the researcher wants to study the role of NILAM Programme in motivating primary school students to do extensive reading.
1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

i. To gauge students’ interest in reading.
ii. To identify the factors that make the NILAM Programme successfully conducted in school.
iii. To find out students’ responses towards the role of NILAM Programme in motivating them to do extensive reading.
iv. To find out teachers’ feedbacks towards the role of NILAM Programme in motivating the students to do extensive reading.

1.4 Research Questions

This study will provide answers to the following questions:

i. Do students have interest in reading?
ii. What are the factors that make the NILAM Programme successfully conducted in school?
iii. What are students’ responses towards the role of NILAM Programme in motivating them to do extensive reading?
iv. What are teachers’ feedbacks towards the role of NILAM Programme in motivating the students to do extensive reading?