



Saya Suka Membaca

YAYASAN TUNAS AKSARA

Reading is the beginning

Reading changes lives. It's the foundation of a good education, which makes us happier, healthier, and more productive. But many teachers across Indonesia have had little or no training to enable them to teach reading effectively, with the result that "learning poverty" remains common: one in every three Indonesian children finishes primary school unable to read and understand a simple text, and 70% of Indonesian 15 year olds do not meet the minimum standard expected for reading.¹

Improving levels of literacy among Indonesian schoolchildren is the key to improving educational quality and equity in Indonesia. Children who learn to read with fluency and understanding at an early stage – and who love learning – will enjoy compounding returns throughout their school years, and for the rest of their lives.

Reading is the future

The faster the world changes, the more important life-long learning becomes. The internet is the greatest educational resource, and perhaps the greatest economic opportunity, in history – and it's *free* – but access to these riches depends on literacy.²

See also:

¹ ["Learning Poverty" \(World Bank\)](#); [PISA 2018 \(OECD\)](#); [Literacy key to Learning in Indonesia](#), by board member Stuart Patience.

² [Reading the Present, Writing the Future](#), THink Magazine, April 2018

What we do

We work for a future where all of Indonesia's children have the chance to learn to read, and to love reading.

We do this by equipping pre-school and early-primary teachers to teach literacy effectively, so that the children they teach learn to read with fluency, understanding and enjoyment.

We provide our partners with three things:

- A field-tested Indonesian-language literacy curriculum that is effective, engaging, and easy to use;
- High quality, culturally relevant reading books and learning materials designed to support children as they learn to read;
- Teacher training and mentoring that produces effective teachers of literacy who are able to share a love of reading and learning, and to care for the children they teach.



For detailed information about program content see ***Saya Suka Membaca: Program Overview***

Our impact

Since 2014 Saya Suka Membaca materials have been used to teach more than 10,000 children to read. Our partners work across 12 Indonesian provinces from North Sumatra (Nias) to Papua (Merauke), and we've supplied books to other organisations like UNICEF and Room to Read.

And it works. In 2019 an external evaluation of our program measured the following impact on pupils' learning:

- 54% greater improvement in a basic literacy **test** for Grade 1 pupils in target schools vs control schools;
- 16% greater improvement for Grade 1 pupils in a test of comprehension and **higher-order thinking skills**;¹



The same evaluation also identified the following impacts on teacher behaviour:

- Proportion of teachers giving **verbal praise** for students' effort increased from 52% to 86%;
- Percentage of teachers **teaching at the right level** increased from 64% to 88%;
- Percentage of teachers using **appropriate teaching resources** increased from 38% to 76%;
- Percentage of teachers distributing interaction **evenly between boys and girls** increased from 38% to 71%;
- Average percentage of **students engaged effectively** during lessons increased from 49% to 86%.

"Before we had SSM ... we were overwhelmed trying to find teaching materials for everyday lessons. That was our main problem at primary level. But after SSM, and again I say, 'Alhamdulillah' [Praise God], we are equipped with teaching tools, including the teacher's handbook, activity books, and of course, story books. Thanks to these teaching materials provided by SSM, all our students are happy and motivated to learn, at school and at home. Source: Ahmad, Teacher, SDN 4 Sokong, N. Lombok.

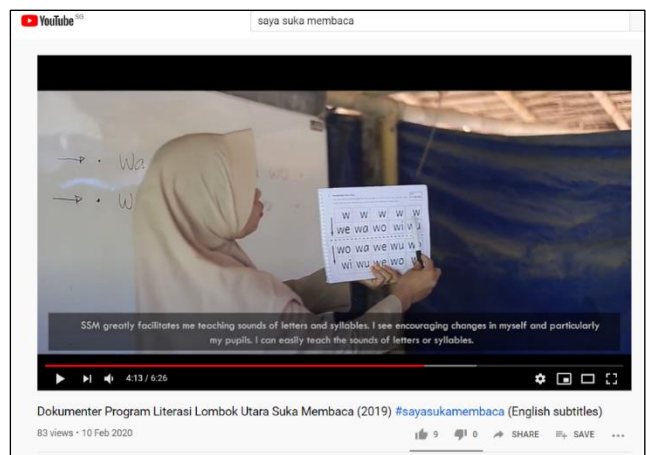
¹ See INOVASI (2019), *Lembar Fakta MERL, Hasil Pilot Literasi Lombok Utara – YTA*.

What's next?

Our aim is always to equip more teachers and parents to help children to learn to read, and to love reading. We want to make high quality books, resources and training available to as many people as possible, as affordably as possible.

Through 2020 and beyond we will continue to work with small, community-based partners across Indonesia as well as running larger programs in partnership with donor organisations and local education departments. After the success of our work with the *INOVASI* program in North Lombok (a partnership between the Indonesian Ministry of Education and the Australian government) we are seeking funding to run similar programs in other areas of Indonesia, including Kabupaten Kupang on the island of Timor.

We are also developing online resources – free video lessons and training resources for teachers and parents – in order to serve teachers who can't attend our training sessions in person, or children who are unable to attend school, particularly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Physical books remain a vital resource for teaching reading, and we continue to seek sponsorships to allow us to print more of our early-reading books in bulk, making our materials more widely available and increasingly affordable as we grow. Our new “SSM Light” resource is designed to enable more teachers to benefit from our phonics-based, active approach to teaching reading in a package that they can afford.

Finally, our influence isn't limited to our own program – our activities contribute to the wider 'ecosystem' of literacy resources and activities in Indonesia and South-East Asia. We are part of a growing movement in Indonesia that is creating a new culture of literacy, book by book and child by child.





Our (charitable) business model

Yayasan Tunas Aksara, the legal foundation behind the Saya Suka Membaca program, is a registered Indonesian charity. We receive donations from a wide range of sources, from corporate-social responsibility programs (CSR) to private individuals. Every donation makes a difference.

We make our funds go further by asking users of Saya Suka Membaca to cover the cost of the training and materials that we provide. This enables us to serve more teachers and children and ensures that our growth is sustainable. It also makes us more accountable for the quality of the services and resources we provide.

Our aim is to have a charitable business model that largely funds its own growth, allowing us to continue to serve teachers and children across Indonesia for years to come.

How to help

Help us to build a future where all of Indonesia's children can learn to read and to love reading. You could support the work of Saya Suka Membaca by:

- **Telling others** – share this document with others who might be interested in our work.
- **Getting involved** – ask about joining our team of volunteers. We're looking for educators, administrators, fund-raisers, writers, illustrators, designers and web-developers.
- **Get trained** – find out how you could use Saya Suka Membaca to serve your local community.
- **Give** – make a general donation, sponsor the printing of a reading book, or introduce us to other potential donors and sponsors (financial details can be found below).

It costs us US\$15 per year to teach a child to read, and \$800 to print 1000 reading books.



Saya Suka Membaca

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