

# **The Establishment of a Community Reading Library in Ngroto Village, Pujon Subdistrict, Malang Regency, as Part of the Implementation of the IDM (Village Development Index) and the Strengthening of the Culture of Literacy**

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## **Abstract**

One of the benchmarks for measuring village development in Indonesia is the IDM (Village Development Index). Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia No. 2 of 2016 governs the IDM and its measurement components. In the education dimension, three aspects are measured: access to primary and secondary education, access to non-formal education, and access to knowledge. Regarding access to knowledge, the indicator is the presence of a community reading library or village library. It is through this indicator that the author and team aim to establish a community reading library or village library in Ngroto Village, Pujon Subdistrict, Malang Regency. Although Ngroto Village ranked first in the IDM nationwide in 2018, there is still no community reading library in the village. This is the basis for our community service project. Additionally, the establishment of a reading library and other literacy programs is expected to strengthen intergenerational literacy culture in the village. This community service project took place from May to July 2022.

*Keywords: Library; Literacy; Ngroto Village Pujon,; Village Development Index*

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## **1. Introduction**

The IDM (Village Development Index) is one of the indicators used to measure a village's development progress. Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Villages, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia No. 2016 governs the IDM. Several studies have discussed the importance of viewing the IDM as a development indicator (Setyobakti, 2017; Astika & Subawa, 2021; Setyowati, 2019).

There are three composite indices within the IDM: the IKS (Social Resilience Index), the IKE (Economic Resilience Index), and the IKL (Environmental Resilience Index). In

this community service project, the author and team focus on one dimension of the IKS, specifically education. Within the education dimension, three aspects are measured: access to primary and secondary education, access to non-formal education, and access to knowledge. Regarding access to knowledge, the indicator is the presence of a community reading library or village library (Ministry of Village Affairs Regulation No. 2, 2016).

Although Ngroto Village once ranked first in the IDM nationwide in 2018, the village still lacks a reading corner. Therefore, this community service initiative aims to establish a reading corner in Ngroto Village. For the location of the village reading library, the community service team partnered with a TPQ (Al-Quran Learning Center) administrator who was willing to let his home yard be used as the village reading library. The location is quite strategic, situated right in front of the Ngroto village office.

Our partner is Anis Hidayatie. As the head of the TPQ, Ms. Anis Hidayatie has long planned to establish a village reading room on her property. Ms. Anis is a former campus activist from the 1990s and a member of the press who is deeply committed to promoting a culture of literacy. Mrs. Anis's vision is for the community to develop a love for books, cultivate literacy skills, and solve problems through the stories provided. She also hopes the community will reduce their use of gadgets. Additionally, the reading library will provide children with a comfortable space to read; allow community members to read at any time; educate the nation through words; and help people avoid misinformation. The community reading library, which will be located in front of the Ngroto Village Office, can also serve as a waiting area for community members who are handling business or have matters to attend to at the village hall. This community reading library is also aligned with the village's development efforts in the field of education.

However, due to a lack of funds and manpower, Mrs. Anis's vision has not yet been realized. The reading corner has not yet been built. So far, the only activity underway is the TPQ program, which teaches children to recite the Quran. Below is a photo of the house where the reading corner will be built:



To improve community literacy, Ms. Anis also noted that many parents do not view books as something important. Consequently, many parents are unwilling to buy books for their children. Thus, the establishment of a reading corner with an adequate book collection can help the community gain access to reading materials. Additionally, there is the issue of a lack of library management, such as in maintaining attendance records, book catalogs, duty schedules, and so on. This community service activity took place from May to July 2022.

## 2. Method

This community service project lasted two months, including preparatory work and fieldwork. The student group stayed in the village of Ngroto for one month, carrying out various activities aimed at improving community literacy. The implementation methods were as follows:

- Site survey, observation, and discussions with partners

The partners engaged in extensive discussions regarding the program's implementation. They participated by providing space in their yards and rooms to be used as a reading corner.

- Needs assessment, creation of social media accounts, and launch of a donation drive

After meeting with partners and conducting a site observation, the team proceeded to assess the needs. Once completed, the team created social media accounts and launched a public donation drive. Books will be collected alongside these donations.

- Construction of the reading corner, book management, and inauguration

The construction of the reading corner and book management are estimated to take approximately 1–2 weeks, beginning in June 2022. It is hoped that an inauguration ceremony will follow, involving community leaders, the village head, and partners.

- Launching literacy classes

Once the space has been renovated, books have been added, and so on, the team will launch literacy classes. Partners will participate by assisting children in rereading books they have already read, storytelling, and narrating stories.

- Evaluation

The team will distribute questionnaires to all involved parties to assess the community service we have carried out. These questionnaires will be distributed at the beginning of the community service in the village and at the end as a means of evaluation.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

The first phase of the project involved two site surveys, conducted on May 16, 2022, and June 8, 2022. The first and second surveys were carried out to identify the needs and challenges facing Ngroto Village and to explore potential solutions. During the first survey, the team met with village officials, including the Village Head and the head of the TPQ, to gather further information about the TPQ and the plan to build a village library. During the second survey, the author conducted a direct site visit to assess the condition of the TPQ premises, which were to be used as the location for the village reading corner. In this second survey, the team also held another meeting with village officials to confirm details regarding the construction of the village library and the literacy classes to be held, aimed at boosting community literacy interest—particularly among village residents at the elementary school (SD) level.

During implementation, the team coordinated to ensure that the previously developed program plan could proceed smoothly. Team coordination took place three times: the first consultation was held concurrently with the field survey; the second consultation involved discussing the project's structure and implementation plan; and the third

consultation was conducted to ensure the preparation and refinement of the community service implementation.

In an effort to optimize literacy improvement among the residents of Ngroto Village, the construction of a reading library was one of the main priorities of the community service program. The community service team stayed in the village for one month to ensure the program was on target and ran smoothly. The reading library is located at the home of Mrs. Anis, the reading library manager, situated at Jl. Lely No. 14, in front of the Ngroto Village Office, Pujon Subdistrict, Malang Regency. The renovation process began with the construction of the reading library, which started on June 22, 2022. This construction process took place over 19 working days from June 21, 2022, to July 8, 2022. The reading library construction process began with design coordination and the preparation of the Cost Estimate (RAB), carried out by the group and the foreman who had been mutually agreed upon beforehand. The first step in the reading library construction process began with the purchase of building materials by several group members, accompanied by the foreman as a supervisor.



The purchased building materials were then put to use by the workers, who began by dismantling the fence and constructing the outer walls of the reading room. The construction of these walls involved the pouring of concrete. This process took approximately 7 days and was followed by the installation of a concrete canopy over the entrance and windows of the reading corner. The canopy installation took two days and was followed by the installation of a foundation slab to serve as the base for the walls and entrance of the reading library. Once the reading room walls were erected, the next step

was installing the reading room roof, which took one day. After the roof was properly installed, the next step was renovating the interior floor of the reading room with plaster. The floor inside the reading room was smoothed using cement, which will later be covered with wooden planks to enhance the reading room's aesthetics. This phase took two days. The next phase involved the finishing work, which included installing window frames, reinstalling the fence that had previously been dismantled, and completing the reading corner's finishing touches—such as painting, installing wooden planks on the reading room floor, applying wallpaper stickers to the reading room walls, and installing shelves within the reading room.



The construction of this reading corner took a total of about 21 working days and concluded with an inauguration ceremony before the Ngoro Village community reading corner was officially opened and made available to residents. In addition, the team has stocked the reading corner with books donated by friends who were willing to contribute to expanding the collection. With the establishment of this reading corner, the enthusiasm of the children and the community of Ngroto Village has grown significantly for literacy-building activities, while also promoting and supporting open access to reading materials in Ngroto Village—an area that previously lacked such facilities and where books were difficult to obtain.



The reading library was inaugurated on July 8, 2022, and was attended by Mr. Prayogi, the village head; Ms. Anis, the host; and children and parents from Ngroto Village. The event concluded with a simple celebration featuring the cutting of a tumpeng and a communal meal.



## Literacy Classes

Alongside the construction of the reading library, the team implemented a literacy class program held in three hamlets within Ngroto Village. The literacy classes utilized various methods for each session. The first literacy class was held in Krajan Hamlet, with the initial focus being an introduction to literacy for the children there. The children were introduced to the concept of literacy and the benefits it offers for their future. On the first day of class, the team gave the children the opportunity to read books we had provided and encouraged their confidence and engagement by having them speak in front of the group, retelling the stories from the books they had read. Next, the team encouraged the children to develop a love for books by reading a fairy tale titled “Kelik the Kind-Hearted.” The children appeared enthusiastic about listening to the story from the book and were eager to answer the questions posed after the story was finished being read. The literacy classes in Krajan Hamlet were subsequently held regularly every Monday through Friday after the Quranic studies at TPQ Ar-Rokhim were completed.

Literacy classes were also held in Maron Hamlet, where, based on our observations, the children’s interest and levels of education and literacy were quite low. This situation caused the author some difficulty at the start of the program, but it was ultimately successful. In the initial phase, we transported books to Maron Hamlet and provided bookshelves for a reading corner there. Then, on July 6, 2022, after obtaining permission from the Hamlet Head, the team successfully conducted a literacy class in Maron Hamlet, which was attended by a significant number of enthusiastic participants—seven children still in elementary school. The literacy class involved reading the same fairy tale book that was read in Krajan Hamlet, titled “Kelik the Generous-Hearted,” followed by a question-and-answer session.

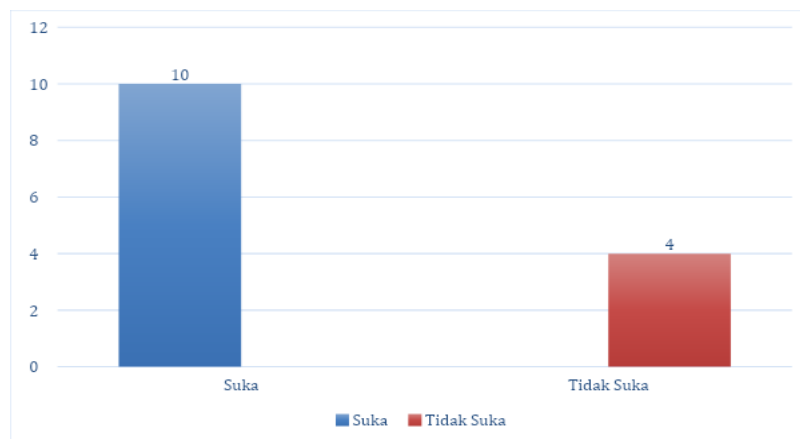
We also held the final literacy class in Lebaksari Hamlet, the last hamlet in Ngroto Village. This session took place at the Al-Hidayah Quranic School (TPQ), and the class was held for the children there after their Quranic studies had concluded. The session involved reading the fairy tale titled “Kelik the Generous-Hearted” and posing questions to the children. After that, the author also explained what literacy is and what benefits literacy brings to the children’s lives. The children, who seemed enthusiastic, then selected reading books that we had provided for the hamlet and began reading on their own. We also informed them that the books they received could be borrowed and must be returned afterward.



## Survey Results

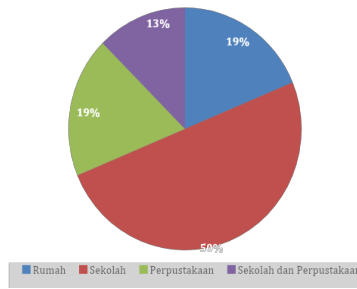
During the implementation of the Ngroto Village Community Service Program (PKM) and the construction of the village reading room, the team conducted two surveys to assess the development of literacy interest among the village community. The first survey was conducted at the start of the literacy classes in Krajan Hamlet to assess the literacy levels and capabilities of the Ngroto Village community through the children of the Ar-Rakhim TPQ. The second survey was conducted after the inauguration of the village reading corner, which had already begun to be used by the Ngroto Village community. Attached are the results of the initial and final surveys conducted by the team.

Do you like reading books?



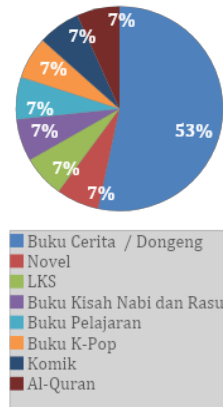
Based on the results of a survey the author conducted prior to the literacy classes and the opening of the reading corner, out of 14 respondents—all elementary school students—10 enjoyed reading and 4 did not.

### Where do you most often read books?



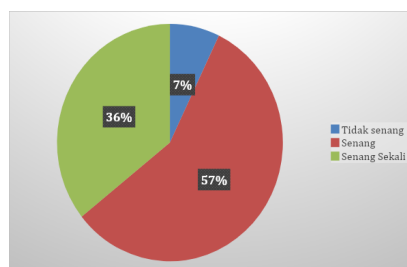
Of the 14 respondents, 8 (50%) said they often read books at school, 3 (19%) said they often read books at the library, 3 (19%) said they often read books at home, and 2 (12%) said they often read books at both the library and school.

### What kind of books do you like to read?



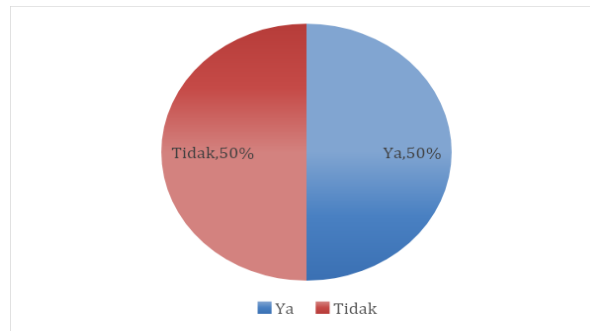
Regarding the question about preferred book genres, the respondents' answers were quite diverse. Eight people (53%) like storybooks/fairy tales, 1 person (6%) likes novels, 1 person (6%) likes workbooks, 1 person (7%) prefers books about the stories of prophets and messengers, 1 person (7%) prefers comics, 1 person (7%) prefers K-Pop books, 1 person (7%) prefers textbooks, and 1 person (7%) prefers the Quran.

### Would you be happy if there were a reading library in your area?



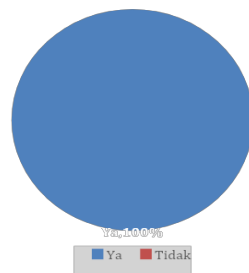
Of the 14 respondents, 8 (57%) said they would be happy to have a reading library, 5 (36%) said they would be very happy to have a reading library, and 1 (7%) said they would not be happy to have a reading library.

Have you ever taken a literacy class?



The results for this question were fairly balanced: out of 14 respondents, 7 people (50%) said they had taken a literacy class, and 7 people (50%) said they had never taken a literacy class.

Are you interested in taking a literacy class?



The results for this question were quite interesting: all 14 respondents (100%) said they were interested in taking a literacy class.

#### 4. Conclusion

Overall, the community service program went well. The government and community of Ngroto Village welcomed us warmly. This community service program consisted of two parts: a physical component involving the construction of a reading library, and a non-physical component in the form of literacy classes. The construction of the reading library also helped the village fulfill a requirement in the Village Development Index and provided villagers with a facility to access an adequate supply of reading materials within their village. The literacy classes served as a catalyst for fostering reading interest among

the community, particularly the younger generation. The village head and village officials were also very helpful in facilitating the program and handling the necessary permits. The community service team, consisting of students, was highly active in implementing the programs and dedicated themselves to living among the community for one month

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