

Reference Number: 91/sipres/A6/II/2023

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Launched the 23rd Emancipated Learning: High-Quality Children's Book for Indonesian Literacy

Jakarta, 27 February 2023 - As part of its committed effort to improve literacy, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MoECRT) launched the 23rd program under the Emancipated Learning umbrella policy: High-Quality Children's Book for Indonesian Literacy. The program brings innovative solutions to the lack of availability of high-quality children's books at schools. The Ministry distributed high-quality books to preschools and primary schools across the archipelago and provided training for teachers.

Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Nadiem Anwar Makarim, stated that the 23rd episode of Emancipated Learning policy is aimed to address low literacy skills among Indonesian students that is caused by poor reading habits. "One of the major causes of poor reading habits is the lack of or unavailability of books suitable for students," said the Minister during the launching event held at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology office, Jakarta (27/2).

The Minister added that the Ministry has been distributing books to schools. However, the books did not go through the selection process. This time, the Ministry increased the number of book copies and book titles, conducted thorough selection for the books and schools and implemented a new approach in distributing the books.

In 2022, the MoECRT distributed more than 15 million copies of high-quality children's books to more than 20,000 preschools and primary schools and provided learning for teachers and librarians.

"This is a book-distribution program with the largest number of books and recipients in the history of the Ministry. Most importantly, we now provide training and mentoring to help schools utilize the books," said the Minister.

The books distributed in this program have gone through a selection process to ensure its function in improving students' literacy rate. "Reading materials we distribute through this program consist of books that act as windows, sliding doors, and mirrors," explained the Minister.

As a window, books help readers to observe new experiences that differ from theirs through events encountered by the characters in the books. As a sliding door, books invite readers to explore new worlds through illustrations and fantasy stories. Then, as a mirror, books provide readers the opportunity to reflect on their life experiences by familiar events reflected in the book. With these three functions, books improve children's critical thinking and reflective skills.

With the training, the Minister hoped that teachers and school librarians could understand the value and usefulness of the books. By then, there will be no more books piling up in the library left unused.

The Minister further said that the current program is focused on addressing the real issue of low literacy. Based on the results of the National Assessment conducted in 2021, one in two students from primary to secondary levels did not reach the minimum score of literacy competence.

In addition, the National Assessment results also showed that there is a gap in literacy competence between regions. There are a number of schools, especially in the frontier, outermost and underdeveloped regions, with level one, or very low literacy and numeracy rate.

"Schools with level one literacy and numeracy rate and schools in the frontier, outermost and underdeveloped areas need special interventions, so we make them the recipients of high-quality children's books," he said.

Improving literacy competence cannot be done simply by sending books to schools. Therefore, in this program, the MoECRT facilitates schools with training and mentoring for teachers and librarians so that the books can be used optimally. This approach, said the Minister, has proven to be beneficial in improving students' literacy competence.

Research by INOVASI Literacy Thematic Study (2020) with 4,784 primary school students of 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades showed that the training has increased students' literacy scores by 8 percent on reading skills and 9 percent on listening skills.

The 23rd episode of Emancipated Learning complements three previous programs that focused on improving students' literacy competence. First, Teaching Campus program as part of the (Emancipated Campus policy. University students participating in the program assist teachers in frontier, outermost and underdeveloped regions to help improve students' literacy and numeracy skills. Since 2020, more than 90 thousand students have participated in the Teaching Campus program to help more than 20 thousand schools.

Second, the Organization Mover program, that has brought 156 education institutions and organizations engaged to assist schools in organizing reading activities. Third, the Emancipated Curriculum, the brand new curriculum that provides much greater authority for teachers to develop a more engaging classroom learning, including through reading activities.

In line with the previously launched Emancipated Learning breakthroughs, this program involves the collaboration of various main units in the Ministry, including the Agency of Language Development and Cultivation; Agency of Education Standards, Curriculum and Assessment; Directorate General of Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Education; and the Directorate of Teachers and Education Personnel.

Bureau of Cooperation and Public Relations
Secretariat General
Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology

Website: kemdikbud.go.id

Twitter: twitter.com/Kemdikbud_RI

Instagram: [instagram.com/kemdikbud.ri](https://www.instagram.com/kemdikbud.ri)

Facebook: [facebook.com/kemdikbud.ri](https://www.facebook.com/kemdikbud.ri)

Youtube: KEMENDIKBUD RI

Enquiries and Complaints: ult.kemdikbud.go.id

#MerdekaBelajar