



***Mangan Ra Mangan Moco Buku - Eating or Starving,
Read Books!***

Ida F Priyanto
Gadjah Mada University Library
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Abstract

Mangan ra Mangan Moco Buku! That's the slogan used for the reading campaign to commemorate our late hero of literacy—Grandpa Dauzan Farook. He was one of the former volunteers with 400 reading communities.

Yogyakarta is a city of culture and education. Besides having a lot of educational institutions, there are volunteers and social organizations working together to fight against illiteracy. Some volunteers work in the banks of the river in the middle of the city where many children become uneducated minority of the urban. Some others work in the rural areas riding bikes or motorbikes offering books to read. Other groups commute from the city to remote areas meeting children and play games with them while offering books to read. Without budget from the local authority, all volunteers work hard to fight against illiteracy. As these activities are self-funded, some problems arise such as budget constraints, lack of reading materials etc.

Mangan ra Mangan Moco Buku! is the slogan to boost the literacy program by holding various more activities both in the city and rural areas as well as discussing the solution to illiteracy. The activities include sock doll making, fiction writing by children, comic writing, and children art performances.

Gadjah Mada University Library contributes the training on library management for the volunteers as well as invites them to share their ideas and solve any arising problems.

Introduction

UNESCO reported that in 1973 Indonesia was still considered as a nation that was “hungry” for books. The report said that Indonesia had not published one single book. However, in 1996 a weekly publication reported that “Indonesia lacked of books.

The above facts were now already in the past. The national political change in 1998 opened a new wave of freedom to express ideas and more reading materials have been available; more mass media to read; and more electronic media to watch and listen to. Books have been published on various subjects and access to internet has also been available since then.

During the last decade there have grown organizations to boost literacy by holding various activities such as reading, writing, discussion as well as providing reading materials for the communities. Comics, fictions, and movies were the media highly attracted the organizations to establish reading communities. The types of organizations or communities were also varied. They could be literary discussion clubs, private libraries for the communities, individuals providing books to read, playing and reading clubs, book publishing associations, movie show and discussion clubs, reading clubs, writers’ organizations, bookshop association, and so on. The establishment of those organizations or associations has shown how high the awareness of people to read and get reading materials.

Many literacy activities held by various agents in the earlier years, i.e. 1998-2005, seemed to be without any directions. Each organization or community has its own motivation and direction. While some organizations were established as NGOs, some were only individuals who had big ideas about literacy in the communities where they live. However, after some time they realized that their struggle to make people literate beneficial for the community. Therefore, more and more people wanted to get reading materials.

These organizations and individuals later grew bigger and attracted some foundations as well as individuals to support the literacy activities. Among them include *Sampoerna Foundation*, *Coca-Cola Indonesia Foundation* and an individual like *Hashim Djojohadikusumo*. Those individuals and foundations have seen the hardship and struggle the individuals and organizations work to build reading community.

Meanwhile nowadays, there are also *Taman Bacaan Masyarakat* (Community Library) established by the local authority. The community libraries are aimed at putting a library close to the community. The number of those community libraries is increasing from year to year supported by the local authority as well as the government. However, the existence of individual volunteers as well as NGO libraries to serve reading materials to the community is also continuing and developing complementing each other with the community libraries.

In 2006, *World Book Day* was held for the first time in Indonesia in order to organize various literacy workers and organizations, while locally, the book exhibitions have been

a media for activities among literacy workers and organizations where they can hold writing workshop, book reviews, talk show, movie show and discussions and sharing experiences on literacy programs.

Book exhibitions, talk shows, book reviews have been held in various cities and towns. Yogyakarta—well known as a city of culture and education—also holds such activities and sometimes the activities are held by collaborating literary workers, writers and even artists. Artists may even hold exhibitions in libraries, a writer come to a library to talk about how to write a book etc.

Literacy and Literacy Workers in Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta is a city situated in central Java as a special province. The King of Yogyakarta plays a role as a governor of Yogyakarta. Besides well known from the number of heritages, Yogyakarta is also well known as a city of education and culture. People from all parts of Indonesia and overseas are represented here either as students, workers, business persons etc. The national education of Indonesia was first established in Yogyakarta by a Javanese living in Yogyakarta and a member of the royal family who preferred using Javanese name instead of royal name.

As a city of education, In Yogyakarta there are organizations dealing with both literacy and reading activities. Those organizations are established by NGOs and social organizations. There are roughly 36 NGOs and social organizations providing library services, reading activities, and literacy programs. Few of them commute from city to rural areas providing reading materials and traditional toys for children, while another organization works in the city and help the minority to read. The community consists of children and youth living in the banks of the river in the city without education and know nothing about what is going on in the city. In addition, there are few individuals who provide reading materials either in a certain location, or offering reading materials from school to school or mosque to mosque.

Sumanto is an example of an individual literacy worker living in a remote area. He worked in Jakarta before he quit his job and went back to his countryside without a job. He began to collect reading materials and then provided those reading materials from door to door by riding his bike—up and down hills. This activity was once to kill his time while he was jobless. But his struggle was then found by organizations and individuals who support his activities. He is now enjoying providing library services on his motorbike and provides both reading materials and computer facilities at home.

Another heroic individual was the late grandpa Dauzan Farook. He was formerly an armed force member in the colonial period. After he left from the army he started to collect books and magazines and provided those reading materials both at home and outside of his home. His home was designed as a library—named as *Mabulir* Library--and he lived in that library. The term *mabulir* actually means magazines and books to circulate. *Ma* stands for *majalah* or magazines and *bu* stands for *buku* or books and *lir* stands for *bergilir* or to circulate.

However, he seemed not only interested in providing reading materials at home. He was pleased if more and more people read his collections. So, he also rode his bike from one community to another and in his last years before he died he had about 400 communities to serve with books and magazines. People in jails were also his target of literacy. He is very well known in Indonesia due to his struggle to build literate people. To commemorate his struggle for literacy, literacy workers, librarians and educators work together to hold what is called Indonesia Literacy Festival in Yogyakarta. This was held 100 days after Grandpa Dauzan farook was buried.

Before he died he wrote a message for all literacy workers and people in general:

"Buku adalah peluru untuk dijadikan senjata melawan kehidupan apalagi di zaman globalisasi sekarang ini. Senjata utama untuk berperang adalah ilmu. Dan ilmu itu bisa diperoleh dengan membaca"

A book is a weapon to fight against hard life, especially in the globalization time nowadays. The main weapon to survive is knowledge. Knowledge may be absorbed from reading. (Dauzan Farook)

Mangan ra Mangan Moco Buku

Mangan ra Mangan Moco Buku! Or Eating or Starving Read Books! is the slogan of *Festival Literasi Indonesia* or Indonesia Literacy Festival that was held last year for the first time in Yogyakarta. The festival was prepared as a campaign of literacy activities and increasing network among communities, organizations and individuals working for literacy. The slogan was derived from a Javanese proverb, *mangan ra mangan kumpul* (eating or starving, keep together). The last word was changed into *moco buku* or read books. The theme was chosen to remind people that whether you live prosperously or not, you should read so that you will be able to gain knowledge and can live better.

The festival was held with various activities and it provided literacy workers to discuss further about the community development and reading society. This festival has also been a media to develop the resources and capacity of individuals to increase the literacy program and enliven the past traditions. Among them were literacy tour (visiting the Mabulir library that was formerly managed by Grandpa Dauzan Farook and Tembi Cultural House); literacy clinic (book preservation and conservation); literacy workshop on blog; talkshow of writers and literacy workers; book donation, and literacy development forum.

An interesting talk show was also held and it discussed about the current issues of literacy in Indonesia and the experience of developing a community library. This program attracted literacy workers and librarians as they wanted to know about the challenges to develop a library and the current issues affecting literacy in Indonesia.

The activities also included cultural literacy as literacy workers were also aware of the disappearance of traditional toys and games. Here in this program traditional toys were

exhibited. Children were also introduced to traditional toys and games and made the aware of the existence of those toys and games. Children interested in fiction and comic writing could also take part in this event because they could learn from the experts of comic and fiction writing. Meanwhile, due to the rapid Information Technology development, literacy workers also learned the technology that hopefully would be able to develop their activities. One of the activities in IT program during the festival was Blog for Beginners. This program was aimed at those literacy workers who had not known how to design a blog.

The festival was also a place for the literacy workers to know about Gadjah Mada University Library and Librarians. The literacy workers were welcome to make use of the facilities within the library, including for the Blog for Beginners program, participants made use of the library's internet facility.

However, actually Gadjah Mada University has long been participating in literacy programs since the previous years. Besides welcoming children and the community to make use of the university library, Gadjah Mada University Library also participates in literacy workers development. The program includes print materials preservation, library automation, digital collection management, outreach program and simple library management. Besides holding trainings in the library, Gadjah Mada University librarians sometimes have to go to rural areas and help literacy workers to learn various library management and literacy development. Another activity is the outreach program in which Gadjah Mada University librarians collaborate with literacy workers to hold activities outside of the university.

Indonesia Literacy Festival has been able to gather librarians, literacy workers, writers, book sellers and IT experts to meet together and discuss matters arising in literacy development. By holding such festival, literacy is easier to manage. The experiences of literacy workers, writers, librarians and IT experts are all good to learn.

Appendix I

Events at Festival Literasi Indonesia

Thursday, 6 DECEMBER 2007

09.00 – 17.30

"Literacy Tour"

Visit to Mabulir and Tembi Cultural House, Yogyakarta.

Friday – Sunday, 7 – 9 DECEMBER 2007

10.00 – 20.00

"Exhibition of Literacy Communities and Cheap Book Sale"

Festival Literasi Indonesia

Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

10.00 – 17.00

"Bring Your Books and Donate them"

Book Donation held by 1001 Books Community

Stand of 1001 Book Drop

10.00 – 17.00

"Reading Room and Book Preservation"

Mabulir Library Stand

Friday, 7 DECEMBER 2007

09.30 – 10.00

"Opening of Indonesia Literacy Festival (Festival Literasi Indonesia)"

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

10.00 – 11.30

LITERACY: ART 1

"Children's Art Performance"

Jathilan Dance by Children from Banyusuco, Bantul

Children's Dance by Children from Kadirejo Village, Muntilan

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

13.30 – 15.00

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 1

"Bibliotherapy: How to make benefit of reading materials as media of therapy"

Speaker: Prapanca Hari (expert in Bibliotherapy)

Workshop Room of Festival Literasi Indonesia

2nd Floor, Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

in collaboration with Library and Information Studies Center (LISC)

13.30 – 15.00

LITERACY: TALK 1

"Book Review : « Buku Suara Minoritas" (The Voice of Minority)

Speakers: Sonya, Alex Alkid, Ira

Moderator: Arsih (PKBI Yogyakarta)

Main Hall, Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center

Collaboration with PKBI Yogyakarta

15.00 – 16.30

LITERACY: TALK 2

"Book Review : "Karena Engkau Perempuan" (Because You are female)

Speakers : Kun Sri Budiasih, Ganjar Widhiyoga, Joni Ariadinata

Moderator: IBP Angga Antagia

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

in collaboration with Forum Lingkar Pena Yogyakarta

15.30 – 17.00

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 2

"Write Your Own Book: Learn How to be a Self Publisher"

Facilitator: Nadiah Alwi (Self Publisher)

Workshop Room of Festival Literasi Indonesia

2nd Floor, Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

19.00 – 20.30

LITERACY: FORUM 1

"Developing a Sinergy Between Libraries and Literacy Communities"

Speakers:

Ida Fajar Priyanto (Director, Gadjah Mada University Library)

Wien Muldian (Library Coord., National Education Dept, Republic of Indonesia)

Agus M. Irkham (Writer and activist of Indonesia Reading Forum)

Moderator : Swandaru (Indonesia Reading Forum)

Man Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

Saturday, 8 DECEMBER 2007

10.00 – 12.00

LITERACY: FORUM 2

"Revitalization of Library as the Heart of Educational Institution"

Speakers: Machmudin (Association of Indonesian School Information Workers)

Heri Zudianto (Mayor of Yogyakarta City)

Moderator : Sumanto (Mitra Tema Library)

Main Hall, Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

13.00 – 14.00

LITERACY: FORUM 3

"Sharing experiences in managing community libraries"

Facilitator: Gunawan Julianto (Rumah Pelangi)

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

13.30 – 15.30

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 3

"Blog for Beginner"

Facilitator: CahAndong (Blogger Community, Yogyakarta)

Sampoerna Corner Room, Gadjah Mada University Library)

In collaboration with Gadjah Mada University Library

14.00 – 15.00

LITERACY: IT

"Socialization of Senayan 3.0 software "

Facilitator : Team of library@senayan

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

15.00 – 16.00

"Video Show : On Community"

Facilitator: Kampung Halaman
Workshop Room, Festival Literasi Indonesia

15.00 – 16.30

LITERACY: FORUM 4

"Local Movement for Literacy and The Opportunity to Develop a Network"

Speakers: Puthut EA (Tanda Baca)

Tarlen Handayani (Toko Buku Kecil)

Muhtashib (Mabulir)

Dessy Sekar Astina (Forum Indonesia Membaca)

Firman Venayaksa (Rumah Dunia)

Moderator : Salman Rusdie (Lembaga Kajian Kutub Yogyakarta)

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

16.00 – 17.30

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 4

"Designing students' Bulletin"

Facilitator: Komunitas Cas Cis Cus SMA De Britto

Workshop Room, Festival Literasi Indonesia

2nd floor, Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

19.00 – 22.00

"Reflection Nite: Commemorating Grandpa Dauzan Farook"

- Dauzan Farook from the eyes of closest people

- Poetry Reading

- Book Donaton

- Prayer and Epilogue for Grandpa Dauzan Farook

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

Sunday, 9 DEcEMBER 2007

09.00 – 10.00

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 5

"How to make a sock doll"

Facilitator: Papermoon Community

Workshop Room, Festival Literasi Indonesia

2nd floor, Koesnadi Hardjasoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

09.00 - 10.00

LITERACY: ART 2

"Children creativity performance"

Satu Sembilan and Kobar Communities

Main Hall of Festival Literasi Indonesia

10.00 - 12.00

LITERACY: TALK 3

"Process of Fiction Writing"

Speaker: Herlinatiens (Writer)
Dwicipta (Writer)

Moderator: Slamet Tohari (Umar Kayam Foundation)
Main Hall, Koesnadi Hardjosoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University
in collaboration with Yayasan Umar Kayam (YUK)

10.30 - 11.30

"Film Show"

Facilitator: Coret Community
Workshop Room, Festival Literasi Indonesia

13.00 - 14.00

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 6

"Comic Writing by Children"

Facilitator: Bisbabi Community
Workshop Room, Festival Literasi Indonesia
2nd floor, Koesnadi Hardjosoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

13.00 - 14.00

LITERACY: TALK 4

"Think Differently to Attract Media"

Facilitator: Mayor Haristanto (Republik Aeng Aeng)
Main Hall, Koesnadi Hardjosoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

14.30 – 15.30

LITERACY: WORKSHOP 7

"Read and Write a Comedy"

Facilitator: Klinik Penyakit Sedih
Workshop Room of Festival Literasi Indonesia
2nd floor, Koesnadi Hardjosoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

15.00 – 17.30

LITERACY: TALK 5

"I want to Write"

Speakers:

Ataka A.R, 12 years old (writer of a book entitled "Misteri Pedang Skinheald")
Rizqi Aulia Rahmah, 10 years old (writer of a book entitled "Lima Bunga Impian")
Maryam Latifah, 16 years old (writer of a book entitled "Gadis Itu Aisyah")

Moderator : St. Kartono (teacher De Britto High School)

Main Hall, Koesnadi Hardjosoemantri Cultural Center, Gadjah Mada University

19.00 – 20.30

"Get Together of FLI"

A meeting for literacy workers

20.30 – 21.00

Closing of Festival Literasi Indonesia

Appendix II

Committee for Festival Literasi Indonesia.

Secretariat: Jl. Nagan Lor 19, Yogyakarta phone: +62-0274-372525

Program Committee:

1. Wien Muldian (Library Coordinator, National Education Department, Republic of Indonesia)
2. Dessy Sekar Astina (Forum Indonesia Membaca-YIM)
3. Widiarsa (BIBLIO)
4. Jazzuli (www.pustaka.com)
5. Agus M. Irkham (Forum Indonesia Memaca)
6. Gunawan Julianto (Rumah Pelangi Library)
7. Sumanto (Mitra Tema Library)
8. Asep (Mabulir Library)
9. Mutasib (Mabulir Library)
10. Ida Fajar Priyanto (Perpustakaan UGM)
11. Erwin jambro (Komunitas baca - Mabulir)
12. Ahmad Subhan (BIBLIO)
13. Yuli Andari Merdikaningtyas (Kunci Library and Cultural Studies Center)
14. Tri Suhartini (Pondok Rakyat Foundation)
15. Andri (USC Satu Nama Mobile Library)