

# Voices of Community

What's happening in East Java and NTB?

UNICEF Surabaya Newsletter  
is prepared monthly in order to share views /  
concerns of beneficiaries with partners and to  
develop common understanding of how UNICEF-  
assisted projects bring about positive changes in  
day to day life of community.

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## “A motherly man helps children on school readiness”



Talking about a “teacher” of Early Childhood Development (ECD) groups, our mind is referred to a woman. It is not a mistake since almost 90% of teachers in ECD and Kindergarten in Indonesia are women. But, Pak Mistuki is really a man who has become a teacher on an ECD group in Probolinggo.

UNICEF has supported District Government of Probolinggo to establish and run 24 ECD groups that are named as Taman Posyandu. There are 170 trained cadres and 5 Community Midwives who have facilitated those 24 Taman Posyandu. Among those 170 cadres of Taman Posyandu, 4 cadres are men. One of those men is Pak Mistuki.

Pak Mistuki was born on 5 December 1963. He is the school guard of SDN-3 (elementary school) Satreyan. However, he has served as a posyandu cadre since 1985. It means he already served as a cadre since the beginning of posyandu. His concern on children at the age of 2-4 years that gets lack of caring from their parents urged him to gather those children at his house. This became the embryo of Taman Posyandu in Satreyan hamlet. Pak Mistuki forgot when he started this activity and operated it in up and down. It has been conducted intensively after it was formalized as Taman Posyandu on 20 September 2006. Pak Mistuki is very happy that his group is supported by government and UNICEF. He believes that Taman Posyandu can provide more services to children. This will attract parents to send their children to Taman Posyandu and to maintain Taman Posyandu as well.

In his humble speaking, Pak Mistuki explained his vision and mission: “I would like to care and help children in this hamlet to reach their better future. Children should be healthy, intelligent and cheerful”. Early results of his dream can be indicated by the explanation of Ibu Siti Aminatun Naima, mother of a student in Taman Posyandu: “Pak Mistuki is very patient in caring children in Taman Posyandu. Besides fatherly, he is also motherly -- it is rarely possessed by a man --- as his significant capital to realize his dream”. Bu Siti added her opinion: “All children enjoy when they are taught by Pak Mistuki. Other cadres also like him because he maintains close relationship with them and always motivates them to have variety approaches in caring children. All children who were

graduated from Pak Mistuki's group continued their study to SDN-3 Satreyan.

Taman Posyandu Tunas Bangsa that is run by Pak Mistuki and his 5 colleagues as Taman Posyandu cadres has served 24 children that can be classified into 14 children in Grade Bulb (Kuncup) and 10 children in Grade Blossom (Mekar). This Taman Posyandu is also conducted at Pak Mistuki's house.

In a rather “difficult conversation, Pak Naim, VoC reporter gather comments from Pak Mistuki's students. Mohammad Aldi Agustiana, 4 years old said: “Pak Mistuki carried me with him warm arms when I cried. He also taught me how to pray before eating, sleeping and going to school”. While Siti Fatimah, 3 years old commented as follows: “If I have difficulty in sticking a picture, Pak Mistuki always helps me. Sometimes my pants was lowered because of mutually tug with my friends and Pak Mistuki helped to fix it. When I sang without swaying, he with his lively actions gave me examples on how to sing a song with swaying like dancing. If he told a story about mouse deer, my friends and I always laugh together because he is funny and his spittle spat”. Another student, Mohammad Adika said:” Pak Mistuki always breaks us up when I fight or quarrel with my friends. He was not angry. He said that we should be friendly. Sometimes he gave me candies. He accompanied me to toilet room if I want to urinate and my mother did not accompany me in Taman Posyandu”. Hopefully, their comments can be pictured in several photos that are displayed in this VoC.



At the end of conversation with Pak Mistuki, he expressed his hopes to UNICEF and government: “We should succeed in family planning and early childhood development. Those are our investment to reach high quality of our next generation. It would be better if UNICEF and government can continue the support until community can self-maintain Taman Posyandu. Out and in-door education tools are essential to help playing-learning process in Taman Posyandu.\*\*\*\*\*

