

Voices of Community

What's happening in East Java and NTB?

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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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Changes despite minimum facilities

School Based Management (SBM) piloting schools in Bojonegoro has performed significant changes after one year intervention. It has been supported by UNICEF in collaboration with Exxon Mobil. The Exxon Mobil branch company in Bojonegoro is called Mobil Cepu Limited (MCL). Staff of this company has been involved in several SBM activities at district and field level.



The school's performance improvement as a result of this intervention was explained by the project team, implementing partners and beneficiaries. It is easy to claim the successfulness, however it should be demonstrated clearly. Supporting data is therefore become a very important element besides other documentations.

The intervention was equipped with a set of questionnaires that was used for showing the progress. As part of monitoring system, baseline survey had been conducted in the beginning of the intervention. Then it has been updated periodically once a year. Baseline data of the first batch which consisted of 37 schools was collected in July 2007. Then it has just been updated recently in July and August 2008.

When baseline survey results were firstly presented in August 2007, it struck everyone. Most of School Supervisors, School Principals and teachers had never expected that the result was that poor. They got upset and embarrassed. The baseline data showed that the average score of 37 piloting schools was "D" which means that the school has the lowest grade of its performance. However, after a long discussion, the result was accepted in a condition and hope that they should and would be able to make significant changes in managing school, improving learning process, and increasing community participation. The results were really challenged all involving actors in those 37 schools.

The following are information which came from three School Principals. They mentioned the positive results of implementing SBM. However, it should be noted that those achievements they have got were with their school's poor condition of building and limited infrastructure.

Mr. Marwoto, School Principal of SDN-1 Bandungrejo admitted progress of several aspects in his school. SDN-1 Bandungrejo is one of 37 schools that have implemented SBM since 2007. The school is located 30 kms south west of Bojonegoro and very close to Jimbaran, one of oil exploration area which done by Exxon Mobil. He further stated that piloting SBM has given effects to grow courage among School Principal, teachers, parents and community leaders to closely cooperate to improve condition of school. Infrastructure is one of concerns among stakeholders. There are only 3 classrooms that used by 175 students of Grade 1 to 6. Classes are uncomfortable and so noisy both for teachers and students. Mr. Marwoto said: "It is noisy because we have implemented AJEL which effects students to be

more active. Teachers are also more creative in preparing learning materials and education tools, delivering lessons, accustoming to manage students in groups, and facilitating 2-way communication". Hopefully it is going to be solved, because Mobil Cepu Limited (MCL) has provided a grant to construct two new classrooms in this school.

SDN-2 Kalitidu also has limited classrooms just like in SDN-1 Bandungrejo. Ms. Tri Astuti, School Principal of this school said: "We have 4 classrooms. The implementation of SBM, especially AJEL has given us solution for schools with limited number of classrooms like ours. AJEL method does not limit us to conduct learning process at classroom. Teachers and students use indoor and outdoor places for learning process. We have arranged indoor and outdoor classes which made problem of limited classroom has been solved temporarily". She also informed that community participation has increased. Some parents have initiatives to assist students to learn Math, Art and other subjects during and/or after school hours. Parents have paid more attention on education of their children. They facilitate their children to learn at home in the evening.



Different experience was explained by Mr. Sugiono, School Principal of SDN Begadon. Despite sharing changes happened at the school, he was in particularly interested to talk about his recent involvement in conducting baseline data collection and updating data. He was a member of the District Team. Other members of this team are School Principals and School Supervisors who have been trained on baseline data collection and updating data. The training was facilitated by the Provincial SBM Development Team of East Java. The District Team conducted baseline data collection in 30 new piloting schools and updated data in 37 existing piloting schools. This experience made Mr. Sugiono aware of the essential role of valid and reliable data for measuring progress of intervention. He said: "I can see clearly the progress happened at my school, but to convince others especially who never or rarely visit school and observed the changes of learning process and classroom management, data comparison between pre-intervention and a certain period of intervention is helpful to understand the changes". However, besides appreciating UNICEF in supporting development of monitoring tools, Mr. Sugiono also criticized that a part of the tools should be more simple.*****



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