Emancipated Learning:
Lessons Learned from Transforming an Education System

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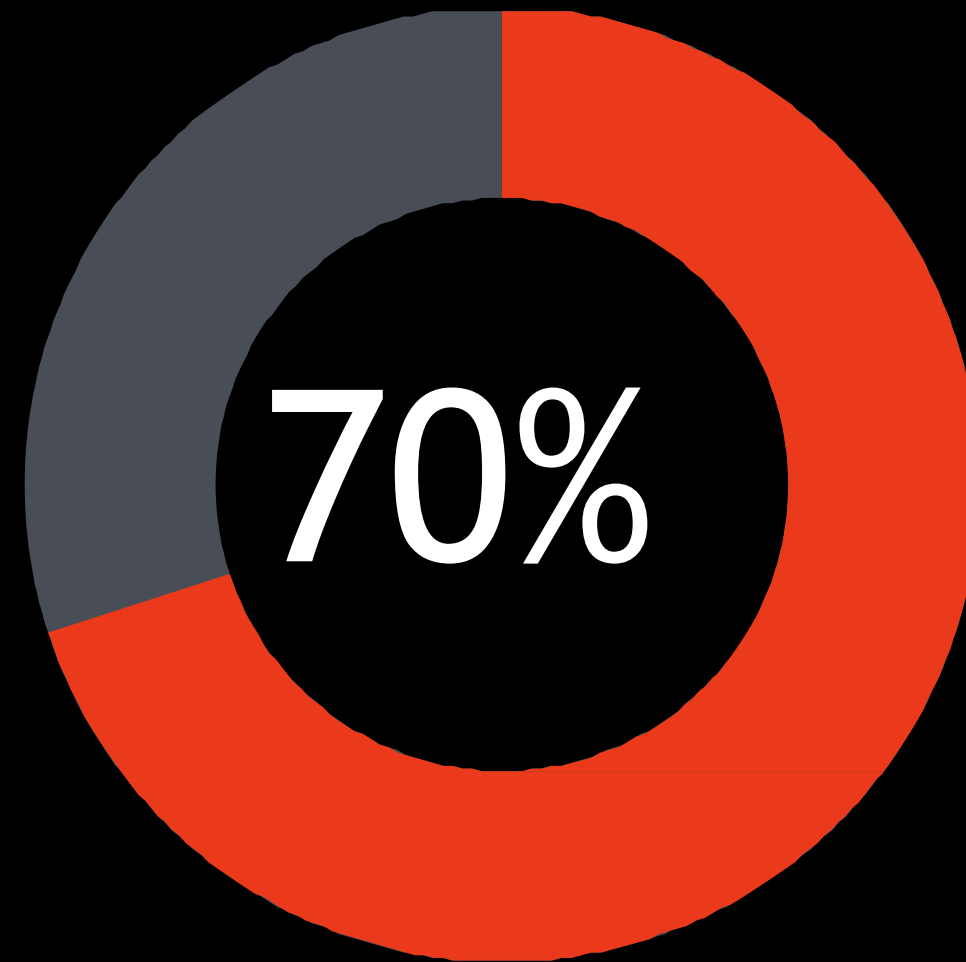
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Part 1:

The beginning

A learning crisis in Indonesia

In 2018, 70% of 15 year-old students showed below minimum competency level in literacy and numeracy.

70%

A vision for

Emancipated Learning

An education system that creates **competent, thriving lifelong learners** with **strong character traits** based on Pancasila, the Indonesian national ideology

A vision for
Emancipated Learning

Changing what used to be:

School as a **chore**
Students as **passive participants**
Teacher training based on **theory**
Teachers as **executors** of curriculum
Principals as **administrators**

Into:

School as a **joyful experience** Students empowered with **agency** Teacher training based on **practice** Teachers as **co-creators** of curriculum Principals as **instructional leaders**

Part 2:

The transformation

Commit to foundational learning

1 **Measure learning better through national assessment**

- Measures **literacy** and **numeracy** skills, not content mastery
- Includes a survey on **school climate**: incidence of bullying, intolerance, and sexual harassment

278k+ schools participated

3.5 mio+ teachers participated

6.8 mio+ students participated

2 **Increase flexibility in curriculum**

- **Depth** more than breadth: fewer topics but deeper engagement
- Achievement standards are designed in **phases** spanning multiple years
- Teachers as **co-creators** of curriculum

88% schools have opted in after 2 years

293k+ schools participated

3 **Public university entrance test becomes an aptitude-based test**

- Teachers can reduce drilling and memorizing, encourages more **holistic** education in high school
- Students are **less dependent** on subject-based test prep centers

803k+ students participated

Support teaching skills

1 **Pre-service teacher education is practice-oriented**
- Relative proportion of theory and practice (in-school training) is 50:50

2 **Empower master teachers**
- Teachers undergo a competitive **selection process** and intensive **on-the-job training** for nine months to become master teachers
- The training includes student-centered teaching philosophy, school culture, differentiated learning, student coaching, running school programs, and decision making Recruitment
- of **principals** and **superintendents** prioritize master teachers

3 **Form professional learning communities**
- Teachers form communities to exchange ideas and increase teaching skills

46k+
teacher candidates every year

93k+
master teachers by 2023

30k+
professional learning communities

Provide **targeted interventions** for schools with low literacy scores

1 Provide extra tutoring
- University students sign up to tutor in these schools for **full credit**. The government provides stipend and training on teaching at the right level.

2 Provide high quality story books and training
- Send **high quality, curated, age-appropriate story books** to early childhood education centers and elementary schools.
- **Principals, teachers, and librarians are trained** on engaging students in reading.

3 Provide higher amount of school grant Schools
- in remote areas that tend to have lower literacy scores receive **higher school grants** than schools in urban areas
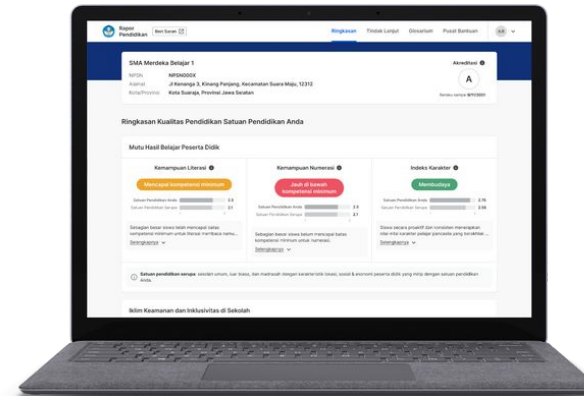
108k+
student tutors

15.3 mio+
books sent

131%
highest increase in school grant

Utilize **technology** to scale up and accelerate progress
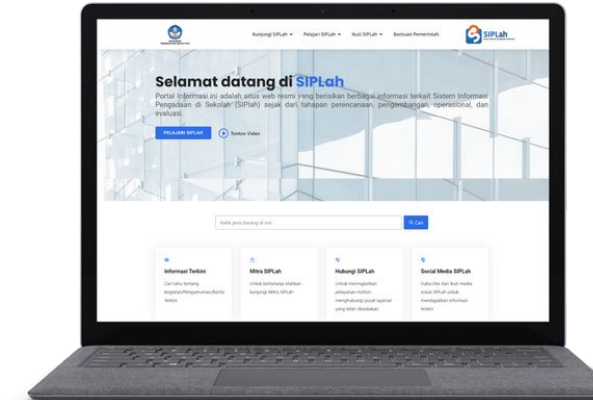
Rapor Pendidikan

Personalized report on school assessment results, combined with other datasets on education.

350k+

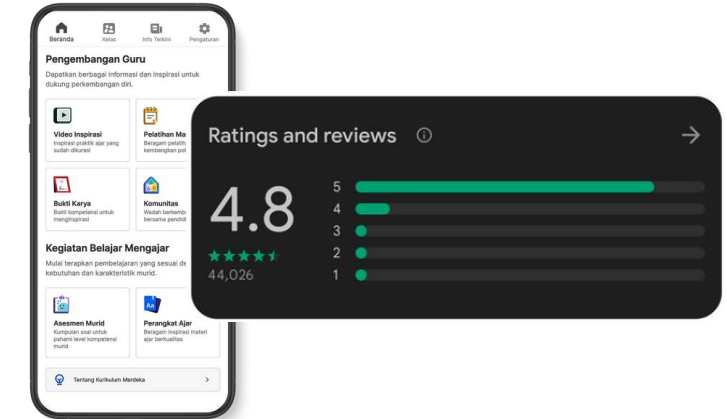schools have accessed their report

300+

indicators provided

SIPLah

Official e-commerce platform to simplify school procurement process

268k+

schools have used the platform

170k+

SMEs engaged in the platform

Merdeka Mengajar

High quality digital teaching resources including tutorials on curriculum and content shared by teachers

2.8 mio+

teachers active on platform

185k

self-learning content available

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Republic of Indonesia

Part 3:

Lessons learned

Lessons learned

Alignment across the education system

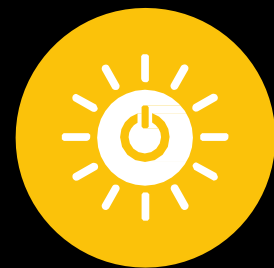Commitment to foundational learning should be reflected in all aspects
- From regular assessment, university entrance test, curriculum, to teacher training
- From preschool to higher education
- Sends a clear message on priorities

Empowering Community

Engage directly with teachers, principals, students, and parents
- Voluntary opt in and peer influence can be more powerful than mandates
- Grassroot movement can survive beyond change of government

Technology

Technology in classroom should prioritize educators
- Assist teachers and principals in improving learning
- Reduce administrative burden
- Design technology for remote areas and provide other targeted interventions

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Thank you

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