

Your trash for our books: Indonesian library creates literacy from litter

A librarian in Indonesia's Java island is lending books to children in exchange for trash they collect in a novel way to clean up the environment and get the kids to read more.

Each weekday Raden Roro Hendarti rides her three wheeler with books stacked up at the back for children in Muntang village to exchange for plastic cups, bags and other waste that she carries back.

She told Reuters she is helping inculcate reading in the kids as well make them aware of the environment. As soon as she shows up, little children, many accompanied by their mothers, surround her "Trash Library" and clamour for the books.

They are all carrying trash bags and Raden's three-wheeler quickly fills up with them as the books fly out. She's happy the kids are going to spend less time on online games as a result.

"Let us build a culture of literacy from young age to mitigate the harm of the online world," Raden said. "We should also take care of our waste in order to fight climate change and to save the earth from trash," Raden said.

She collects about 100 kg of waste each week, which is then sorted out by her colleagues and sent for recycling or sold. She has a stock of 6,000 books to lend and wants to take the mobile service to neighbouring areas as well.

Kevin Alamsyah, an avid 11-year-old reader, scours for waste lying in the village.

"When there is too much trash, our environment will become dirty and it's not healthy. That's why I look for trash to borrow a book," he says.

The literacy rate for above-15-year-olds in Indonesia is around 96 percent, but a September report by the World Bank warned that the pandemic will leave more than 80% of 15-year-olds below the minimum reading proficiency level identified by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

阅读环保两不误：印尼一图书馆推出“垃圾换书”服务

印尼爪哇岛的一名图书馆馆长让孩子们用收集的垃圾来换取图书借阅资格，这一新招既能清洁环境，也是为了让孩子们多读书。

每个工作日，拉登·柔柔·亨达尔蒂都会骑着满载儿童图书的三轮车到满堂村换取塑料杯、塑料袋和其他垃圾，然后再把一车垃圾带回。

她告诉路透社说，她在帮助培养孩子们的阅读习惯和环保意识。她一出现，小孩子们就把她的“垃圾图书馆”团团围住，嚷嚷着要书。许多孩子都是在母亲的陪同下来的。

孩子们都带来了成袋的垃圾，拉登三轮车上的书被一抢而空后，很快就装满了垃圾。她很高兴此举可以让孩子们少玩点电子游戏。

拉登说：“让孩子们从小培养文化素养，可以减轻网络世界带来的危害。为了抗击气候变化、拯救地球，我们也应该处理好垃圾。”

她每周能收集约 **100** 公斤垃圾，由她的同事对垃圾进行分类后将其回收或卖掉。她的馆藏图书共有 **6000** 本，她也愿意为邻近地区提供移动借阅服务。

酷爱阅读的 **11** 岁男孩凯文·阿兰夏在村子里到处搜寻垃圾。

他说：“如果垃圾太多，我们的环境就会变脏，这样不健康。这也是我捡垃圾换书的原因。”

印尼 **15** 岁以上人群的识字率约为 **96%**，但是世界银行 9 月份发布的一份报告警告称，新冠疫情将导致超 **80%** 的 **15** 岁人群阅读能力低于经济合作与发展组织设定的最低水平。