

Inequalities and Children in Indonesia



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Context

- Macroeconomic indicators have been good
- While poverty down, the vulnerable remain a large number
- Regional disparity, non-income poverty need more attention
- Inequality measures deteriorate – focus here: children



Age and gender disparities

- In 2009, >30% of population are children, more than 21mn live in poor/vulnerable households.
- Being a female increases the chance to experience deprivation in education.
- Twice as much female population aged 10+ as their male counterpart cannot read, and three times as much never enroll in schools.
- Literacy ratio is around 93%, with male population higher than the female counterpart.



Health

- The number of babies not having complete immunization is still high
- The probability of having diarrhea is 8% for a child up to 5 years-old with the following characteristics: female, got no immunization, living in rural area, living in a house whose largest floor area is dirt/soil, has *no* toilet facility, and has *no* electricity for lighting.
- This probability is higher in poor provinces (>8%), and lower in non-poor provinces (6%).
- Access to decent sanitation and clean water are still low, esp. in eastern part.
- Most families also live in very small houses and with bad waste management.



Birth registration

- Almost 40% of household members aged 0-17 years old do not have birth certificate. The head of households blame the expensive fee to get a certificate (28%) and the lack of information on how to obtain one (17.25%) as the main reasons for not having the certificate for their children.
- This lack of birth certificate is more prevalent in province outside Java than those in Java.



Child labor

- About 7.6% of children aged 10-15 work, of which 61% are male and 39% female children.
- Thirty percent of the working children in 2009 and in 2011 work 7 days a week.
- Being a male child increase the odds of working by 97% compared to female child. Living in urban areas decreases it by 50%, suggesting that child labor is more prevalent in rural than urban areas.
- The odds of working increases with age of the child, decreases with the income of the family, and decreases with both the age and the education level of the head of the households.



Crime

- Children (0-18 years old) are less exposed than adults, but there has been a slight increase of crime experienced by children. For example, children increased from 9%, 30%, and 14% in 2009, respectively, to 9.8%, 33%, and 25% in 2011.
- Sex and income are not significant in affecting the odds of a child becoming a crime victim. Hence both sexes appear to have an equal chance to be victimized. Furthermore, crime can happen to a child regardless of the family income.
- The odds of becoming the percentages of theft, robbery, and murder that occur to a victim increase almost 40% as the child lives in urban areas compared to in rural areas.



Early marriage

- Under-age marriage (defined as marriage under 16 years old) remains high at around 11% in 2011, compared to 9.4% and 11.2% in 2007 and 2009, respectively.
- Under-age marriage is more prevalent in rural than urban areas. Interestingly, the incidence of under-age marriage is higher in Java than outside Java – the former being more economically prosperous than the latter.
- Ministry of Health data show that the prevalence of marriage at the age of 15-19 years old is 42% and almost 5% at the age of 10 to 14. The prevalence of marriage at the age group of 10-14 is 6% higher in rural areas, 10% higher among out-of schoolgirls, and 6% higher within the lowest decile of poverty



Challenges

- Ambiguous stipulation of the laws, leading to confused implementations
- Policy agenda of Child Protection and Poverty Reduction are not lined up well
- Budget mis-allocation
- Poor quality services
- Decentralization complexities



Recommendations

- Shift the focus from input to output
- Increase the number of and improve the quality of services
- Distribute services not only on ratio-based but also by projection-based
- Adopt a comprehensive approach to reduce poverty that recognizes and addresses potential shocks faced by children, and that strengthens the capacity of family and community to protect and care for their wellbeing
- Leverage more resources and invest in where it counts

