

Intergeneration relations: A Case Study in Indonesia

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Introduction

- The World is presently witnessing the rapid increase in the older population (60 years above). This is most evident in the developing world especially the Asia-Pacific region where in this Millennium an aged-structured society has been achieved in most of these countries within a short time span of several decades compared to developed countries that achieved both prosperity and ageing within the last Century.

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- Increase in age is accompanied by increase in Life Expectancy, however life expectancy at 60 years remains short between 5 to 15 years and we also have witnessed the rapid growth of the oldest segment of elderly (80 years above). This short period of life usually is filled with increased dependency as the older person ages and eventually becomes bed ridden because of increased vulnerability and disability.

Investing in the Future

- In this Millennium most of the countries in this region will experience their respective demographic windows of opportunities where young people are still able to support their elders and this is an appropriate time to invest in ageing infrastructure and human resources to create an age-friendly environment for all ages including the elderly.

Active, Healthy & Productive Ageing

- Thus the concept of active, healthy and productive ageing leading to successful ageing should become a universal policy of all nations so that older people will not become a burden to the community but will remain an asset to social and economic development of the respective Asia-Pacific countries.

Current Situation

- In the urban context, urban community development initiatives contribute to the alleviation of urban poverty especially for the most vulnerable including older people as well as youth with low technical skills.
- In the rural context, rural community tradition of three-generations under one roof has been consistently eroded by mass urban migration by its young people both domestic and overseas.

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- They will become aged in sub-urban areas so that there will be a shift in concentration of older people living in rural (extended family or three generations under one roof) to urban areas (nucleus family)

Objectives

- What is the current status of intergeneration relationships within the community in Indonesia
- What possible policy implications does this situation have on promoting the development of intergeneration solidarity in the future within the context of the older parent and caregiving adult children dyad

Method

- Focus group discussion/in-depth interview with selected informants previously participating in survey on intergeneration relations
- Selected 5 of 8 provinces in Indonesia were Jakarta, Yogyakarta, East Java, Bali, North Sulawesi analysed in this presentation

Elderly Club Informants

- About younger generation
- About ideal younger generation
- About elders contribution to younger generation
- About elderly contribution to the independency of younger generation
- About ideal relationship between older and younger generations

Younger generation Informant

- About older generation
- About ideal elderly
- Elderly contribution to the future of younger generation
- Younger generation contribution to elderly independence
- About ideal relationship between younger and older generation

About older and younger generation

Older generation	Younger generation
<p>Jakarta Older persons are adult children's responsibility Jogyakarta: -</p> <p>East Java: Older generation supports younger generation for a successful life in the future</p> <p>Bali: Older persons remain active especially in traditional ceremonies</p> <p>North Sulawesi: -</p>	<p>Jakarta: Older persons remain productive Jogyakarta: Older persons require attention and assistance East Java Older generation remain active, healthy and productive</p> <p>Bali: Even though older person are not working, they are still required in traditional ceremonies</p> <p>North Sulawesi: Negative image of older persons (Ageism)</p>

About contribution of each generation

Older generation	Younger generation
<p>Jakarta Provide life long learning to younger generation Jogyakarta: -</p> <p>East Java: Provide life long learning to younger generation Bali: Sharing of wisdom and experience with the younger generation North Sulawesi: -</p>	<p>Jakarta: Provide assistance to older persons daily needs Jogyakarta: Older persons support career of younger generation in funding, wisdom and sharing of experience East Java: Provide wisdom and experience to younger generation Bali: Supports the needs and condition of older people North Sulawesi: Supports the needs and condition of older people</p>

About ideal relationship between older and younger generations (T2+5)

Older generation	Younger generation
<p>Jakarta Harmonious relationship between older and younger generation Jogyakarta: -</p> <p>East Java: Maintaining good and cordial communication with younger generation</p> <p>Bali: Relationships between older and younger generation should be based on respect of each parties views</p> <p>North Sulawesi: -</p>	<p>Jakarta: Harmonious relationship between younger and older generation Jogyakarta: Older persons remain healthy and productive</p> <p>East Java: Maintaining good and respectful communication with older generation</p> <p>Bali: Adjusts to the needs and condition of older people</p> <p>North Sulawesi: Relationships based on open communication and mutual respect</p>

Conclusion

About older and younger generation

- Older generation supports younger generation for a successful life in the future
- Older persons are adult children's responsibility

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About contribution of each generation

- Older generation: Sharing of wisdom and experience with the younger generation
- Younger generation: Supports the needs and condition of older people

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About ideal relationship between older and younger generations

- Older generation: Harmonious relationship between older and younger generation
- Younger generation: Relationships based on open communication and mutual respect