

Bridging the Gender Gap in Indonesia's Online Motorcycle Taxi Sector: A Pilot Study Design for Social Identity Intervention



Photo: Shutterstock

Indonesian women continue to face social norms that limit their employment choices, including in the ride-hailing sector. Despite platforms like Gojek and Grab offering flexibility and low barriers to entry, female drivers remain significantly underrepresented compared to their male counterparts. This gap reflects systemic barriers that risk excluding women from the growing digital economy.

To understand this issue, SMERU examines the social factors and gender norms that hinder women's participation in this sector. The research also tests whether role model-based interventions and mentorship programs can serve as effective solutions. The findings aim to contribute to building a more equal and inclusive digital work ecosystem. [Click the image](#) to learn more about the study.

National Education Day

From 2017 to 2022, the RISE Programme in Indonesia (RISE) conducted in-depth research on teacher recruitment systems and local education policy innovation. [Click the image](#) below to watch the video and explore the findings.



Teacher Career Path under the Indonesian Education System

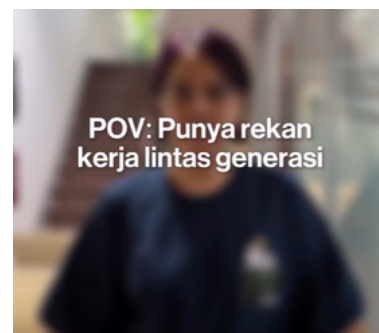
Teachers in Indonesia continue to face various challenges and uncertainties throughout their career paths, from recruitment to professional development opportunities. These realities raise a fundamental question: how do such conditions shape the quality of learning and influence the future of education in Indonesia?



Encouraging the Development of Educational Innovations At the Regional Level

Decentralization has opened more opportunities for local governments to shape education policies. Yet, their capacity to design and implement effective reforms varies widely, with many still facing significant challenges. How, then, can local governments develop education policy innovations that are truly relevant to the communities they serve?

SOCIAL MEDIA



At SMERU, every perspective matters. From new team members to those who have been with us for years, each person brings unique stories, experiences, and contributions that enrich one another. [Click the image](#) to meet SMERU staff across generations.

Latest Publications



Investing in Care Workers: Positioning Domestic Care Workers in Indonesia's Care Economy

Domestic workers play a vital role in Indonesia's care economy. Their work enables many families to remain productive through employment, education, and other daily activities. Yet domestic workers are still widely viewed as informal, low-skilled workers. This study recommends the ratification of the Domestic Workers Protection Bill to ensure labor protection, prevent exploitation, and recognize domestic work as skilled labor. [Click the image](#) to download the report.



"Predatory" Daycare: Why Is It Easier to Blame Mothers than to Fix the System?

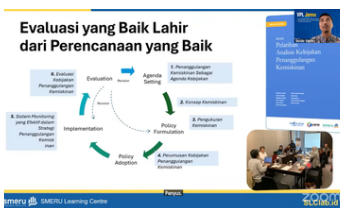
The daycare case in Yogyakarta sparked widespread public reactions. Unfortunately, much of the attention was directed at mothers who entrusted their children to daycare services, rather than at negligent providers or weak state oversight. In an article published by *The Conversation Indonesia*, SMERU senior researcher Valentina Utari examines the issue through the lens of care work and highlights the importance of viewing childcare as a shared responsibility. [Click the image](#) to read the article.

Activities



Baseline Study Dissemination: Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion

To promote more inclusive development, the Directorate of Family, Caregiving, Women, and Children at Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) held a dissemination event for the baseline study findings on 25 May in Jakarta. Supported by the SKALA Program and implemented by SMERU, the study found that civil society organizations (CSOs) still have limited involvement in development planning forums, while persons with disabilities are not yet fully accommodated in formal planning processes. The recently issued Minister of Home Affairs Circular Letter No. 000.8.2.6/0829/Bangda on Guidelines for Community and Vulnerable Group Participation in Development Planning Consultations (*Musrenbang*) for the Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD) and Thematic *Musrenbang* is expected to strengthen community involvement in the preparation of regional government work plans. In his keynote speech, Pungkas Bahjuri Ali, Deputy for Human Development and Culture at Bappenas, emphasized that the forum serves as an important space to strengthen collaboration between the government and CSOs in expanding public participation in development. [Click the image](#) to watch the discussion.



SMERU senior researcher Rendy Adrian Diningrat was one of the speakers at a public lecture titled "Developing Civil Servant Capacity through an Integrated



On 20 May, SMERU Director Widjajanti Isdijoso spoke at the Thee Kian Wee Lecture Series 2026 held by the National Research and Innovation Agency

Learning System (Corporate University) to Strengthen Organizational Performance" on 11 May. Rendy highlighted the importance of evaluation as an integral part of an organization's quality assurance system. He also shared SMERU Learning Centre's experience in strengthening the capacity of policymakers through training and learning programs. The lecture was organized by Indonesia's National Institute of Public Administration (LAN RI). [Click the image](#) to watch the replay.

(BRIN). In her presentation, Widjajanti emphasized that social protection should be viewed as a social investment that supports long-term welfare improvement, rather than merely a temporary safety net. She noted that social assistance can only help build people's capacities when supported by quality basic services. The forum was held to honor the contributions of economist Thee Kian Wie to Indonesia's sustainable economic development. [Click the image](#) to watch the lecture.