

## Examining Challenges and Opportunities to Improve the Quality of Education in Indonesia



Photo: Harits Kambaludin (SMERU)

The National Assessment (AN) is not merely a tool for assessing student learning. It also offers valuable data for evaluating the overall performance of an education system, from the school level to the national level. This data can be analyzed using various methods to estimate proficiency levels, monitor longitudinal performance changes, compare group achievement, and investigate the link between achievement and student background. **SMERU analyzes the National Assessment (AN) and the Indonesian Madrasah Competency Assessment (AKMI) dataset for primary and junior secondary school levels** to understand student performance in literacy and numeracy, as well as the acquisition of 21st-century skills. [Click on the image](#) to know more about this study.

### Latest Publications



#### Neglecting the Poor and Marginalized: Participatory Village Governance in Indonesia's New Developmentalist State

This article by SMERU senior researcher, Muhammad Syukri, critically examines how the Participatory Village Governance policy has been designed and, particularly to address issues of poverty and marginality. This article is based on a field monitoring study of the implementation of the Village Law at the village level. [Click the image](#) for the complete article and its insightful findings.

### SMERU Video



#### Happy National Education Day!

In commemoration of National Education Day, recognized every May 2nd, SMERU has released a video titled "**Catatan**

**Perjalanan Guru**" or **Stories of Beginning Teachers**, a study by the RISE Programme in Indonesia that employed a "diary" approach to chronicle the experiences of a cohort of beginning teachers during their formative years in the profession. What did the study reveal? What recommendations stem from its findings? [Click on the image](#) to watch the video.

### Future Event



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## SMERU in the Media



*Kompas* newspaper once again highlights the issue of student loan in one of its recent editions. The article provides a comprehensive overview of funding options for university students, including the regulatory aspects of protection. Loan models from certain countries can inform the Indonesian government in formulating an appropriate student loan scheme for Indonesian students. The article also cited the findings of a study by SMERU on student loans. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.

## SMERU Activities



Risa Nihayah, a senior researcher at SMERU, joined the Indonesia Future Network (IFN) discussion on Future Policy

on 6 May. Assigned to Group 1, Risa engaged in a discussion with researchers from other institutions on policies that promote innovation and investment. Drawing from SMERU's research, she proposed recommendations for improving the capacity of bureaucrats. IFN is a multi-stakeholder collaboration platform to tackle the complexities of today's public policy. The IFN discussion is organized by the Presidential Staff Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas.



Heni Kurniasih, SMERU's Institute Secretary, was invited as a speaker at the Policy Brief Discussion Lecture for the National

Leadership Training (PKN) I, Batch LIX, held at the ASN Corpu Campus of the National Institute of Public Administration (LAN) in Pejompongan, Jakarta on 21 May. Heni offered her insights and feedback on the policy brief drafts prepared by PKN participants (comprising 40 central and regional echelon 1 and 2 officials) focusing on affirmative policy strategies to tackle poverty in slow-growing regions.



SMERU's senior researcher Palmira Permata Bachtiar was among the discussants in a public discussion titled "Navigating Life

amidst the Digital Transformation Stream: Are Workers Safeguarded?". The event was organized by the Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance (CIPG) in Jakarta on 7 May. Palmira highlighted two key principles for safeguarding digital laborers: streamlining (simplifying and disseminating existing social protection programs to promote awareness and accessibility among workers) and collective action (ensuring that protection and support schemes are offered by a diverse range of stakeholders, including but not limited to the government).



SMERU welcomed a benchmarking visit from the Deputy for Policy Analysis and Administrative Innovation, National Institute

Public Administration (LAN), of specifically the Center for Public Administration Policy Studies, on 29 May. SMERU was selected for bench-marking due to its recognition in the Go To Think Tank Index and its strong focus on socioeconomic issues, particularly from the perspective of poverty and social inequality. Among the guests were Deputy for Policy Analysis and Innovation of Public Administration, Tri Widodo Wahyu Utomo, and Head of the Center for Policy Analysis of Public Administration, Widhi Novianto.



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