



Measuring Child Well-Being Using Child Well-Being Index

Every individual is unique; therefore, they have different perspectives in seeing life.

Only having our own views of the well-being of children is not enough to determine that 'a child lives well'. We, especially the decision-makers, also need to hear and feel the expectations of the children.



Objective of the Study

Child Well-Being Index combines aspects seen in the children (objective), aspects they express, and their opinions or feelings (subjective) to be used for measuring their well-being.

Research Questions

- How is the child well-being landscape in both objective and subjective dimensions?
- What are the recommendations that can be made to support the child well-being both in West Java Province and at the national level?

Methodology

The Child Well-Being Index was developed based on two dimensions: the subjective and objective ones. Each dimension has five subdimensions of well-being adapted from the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely education, health, living standard, child protection and family caregiving, and social connectedness.

Using data from the Child Subjective Well-Being Survey conducted by National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Statistics Indonesia, Bandung Islamic University, and UNICEF in 2017 and also data from the National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas) of March 2018, the Child Well-Being Indices of the populations of 27 *kabupaten* (districts)/*kota* (cities) in West Java can be measured.

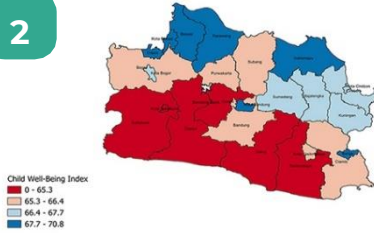
Findings



The child well-being achievement of West Java shows a score of 66.5 (a relatively low achievement). This province scored 66.8 for subjective well-being and 66.2 for objective well-being.

- West Java has the highest scores in the child protection and family caregiving subdimension (objective: 94.57, subjective: 85.62).
- West Java has the lowest scores in the social connectedness subdimension (objective: 31.58, subjective: 63.60).

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The top five rankings are:

1. Kota Depok (70.8)
2. Kabupaten Pangandaran (70.1)
3. Kota Bekasi (69.4)
4. Kabupaten Bekasi (68.9)
5. Kota Banjar (68.9)

The bottom five rankings are:

1. Kabupaten Cianjur (61.9)
2. Kabupaten Garut (53.0)
3. Kabupaten Tasikmalaya (63.5)
4. Kabupaten Sukabumi (63.5)
5. Kota Sukabumi (64.7)

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The Child Well-Being Index can help regional governments map areas that need to be prioritized as well as areas that can serve as examples. For instance, the regional governments can see the different achievements of Kota Depok and Kabupaten Cianjur. Similarly, it can be seen that Kabupaten Indramayu, for instance, has a high achievement in the objective well-being dimension, yet it still needs to improve its achievement in the subjective one.

Recommendations for the Central and Regional Governments



Needs for sustainable improvement of child well-being in West Java through the balancing of objective and subjective well-being aspects

The main effort that needs to be made is stepping up programs that can connect children with their environments, both physically (face-to-face) and digitally (online).



Mainstreaming of Child Well-Being Index into the child-related national and regional priority strategies

- Continue conducting the Child Subjective Well-Being Survey periodically in all *kabupaten/kota* in Indonesia.
- Involve regional governments in the stages of planning up to using of the Child Well-Being Index.

Help children live well by providing the best for them and fulfilling their expectations. Start with accurate problem mapping of child well-being.

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