

Participatory Research on Child Subjective Well-Being in West Java

Policy Dialogue with Provincial Government of West Java



Child Subjective Well-Being (CSWB) Survey conducted by National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Statistics Indonesia, Bandung Islamic University, and UNICEF in West Java in 2017 was the first survey in Indonesia that contained questions on child happiness.

A follow-up study conducted by The SMERU Research Institute, UNICEF, and Bappenas in 2022 tried to introduce CSWB as a basis for developing policies related to children in West Java.



Objective of the Study

To increase decision-makers' awareness and understanding of child well-being from children's perspectives and introduce the CSWB concept to be integrated into the planning and implementation of development programs in West Java



Methodology

This research used a participatory method through focus group discussions and interviews with various stakeholders in West Java (government, nongovernment, and child forum) conducted in November–December 2022.

Findings



- **Policymakers in West Java have shown awareness of child well-being issues.** However, the CSWB has neither been made their top priority nor been entirely integrated into the existing programs.
- **Inter-institution collaborations to improve child well-being have not been effective.** Priorities so far have been given to program implementation rather than research-based policy formulation.
- **Coordination and synchronization** between formal regulations and program implementation **have not run well.**

Recommendations

- **Mainstreaming child well-being issues**, particularly by integrating children's voice into policy formulation
- **Integrating the CSWB concept** with the existing indicators of government performance evaluation
- **Replicating the CSWB Survey** at one or two regions that have better systems, with special consideration that it should be done in stages
- **Issuing regional regulations to make regional governments committed to the CSWB principles**

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