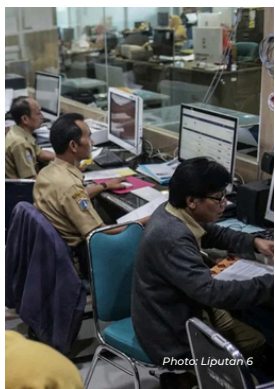


Reactivating the Consortium of Community for Education Advocacy in Indonesia



A strong collaboration between the government and other stakeholders is necessary to further improve the education system in Indonesia. The Consortium of Community for Education Advocacy in Indonesia (MPPI), initiated in late 2023, aims to drive improvements through evidence-based approaches. MPPI, comprising 21 education-focused organizations, concentrates on early childhood education, foundational literacy and numeracy, and leadership development and scholarship provision. The 2024 national leadership change offers a unique window to reinforce MPPI's role in educational transformation. In response, SMERU and Tanoto Foundation are spearheading the reactivation of MPPI to enhance its role as a strategic government collaborator. A series of discussions in 2024 has resulted in a joint communique that will be used and disseminated by all MPPI members, and an agreement to continue activities in the coming year. [Click the image](#) to learn more about the project.

Latest Publications



Analysis of Digital Skills Development in The Public Sector in Indonesia

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of digital transformation in the public sector. However, there's a significant gap in government employees' digital skills. This report presents an analysis of digital skills development within Indonesia's public sector, focusing on four aspects of the Electronic-Based Government System: governance, service delivery, infrastructure, and human resources. [Click the image](#) to view the analysis results.



Reducing Child Marriages through CCTs: Evidence from a Large-Scale Policy Intervention in Indonesia

Can poverty-targeted conditional cash transfers, such as the Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH), can play a role in preventing child marriage in rural Indonesia? This research aims to answer that question. Did the program lead to a significant reduction? [Click the image](#) to read the full report.

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SMERU in the Media



Earlier this year, Statistics Indonesia (BPS) announced a new poverty line for Indonesia: Rp595,242 per capita per month. This calculation is based on the poverty standard Indonesia has used since 1998, which differs significantly from the World Bank's standard. SMERU researcher, Veto Tyas Indrio, shares his views on shifting consumption patterns and their impact on poverty line calculations in the *Narasi Explains* program. [Click the image](#) to watch the video.



The Village Fund Program has been running for ten years. This *Kompas* daily article highlights the program's impact on village economies. Ministry of Villages data shows large Village Fund flows, yet ironically, village original revenue (PADes) has plummeted. SMERU senior researcher, Muhammad Syukri, shares his views on the challenges of village financial independence, particularly regarding PADes and BUMDes. [Click the image](#) to read the article.

Activities



On 6 February, SMERU welcomed Zhao Yao Lam, Public Affairs Lead at Swift, a global provider of financial messaging services that facilitate international financial transactions. We had the opportunity to learn more about Swift and its role in the global financial industry. We also discussed financial inclusion in Indonesia, the challenges of global financial fragmentation, and SMERU's research on digital transformation as well as its role in addressing poverty and inequality. This meeting allowed SMERU and Swift to exchange insights and work towards an inclusive financial system.



The Indonesian Development Research Network workshop was held in Jakarta on 12-13 February. The two-day workshop included presentations by the recipients of the Indonesia Project and SMERU Collaborative Research Grants; policy dialogues with relevant policymakers and practitioners who would potentially benefit from the research; and presentations on current research on gender aspects of climate change in Indonesia, publishing in BIES, and strengthening policy impacts. SMERU senior researcher Heni Kurniasih participated as a discussant in several presentation sessions.



On 21 February, SMERU convened a discussion with teams from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (both central and regional), as well as community empowerment practitioners, to address the next steps in developing a training module for integrating socio-economic considerations into conservation area management. The module, developed by SMERU and Agence Française de Développement, will be the primary resource for a pilot training in April at the Sukamandi Apparatus Training Center in Kabupaten Subang. During the meeting, SMERU provided updates on the module's progress and training agenda.



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