

How Social Media Use Promotes Relational Well-being in the Global South: A Participatory Approach



Social media has become an important part of young people's lives across many countries. While a growing body of research has examined adolescents' use of social media, most studies focus on countries in the Global North. In reality, over two-thirds of the world's youth live in countries in the Global South. Their digital experiences are shaped by various factors, including unequal internet access, lower levels of digital literacy, social and cultural norms, as well as other challenges such as gender inequality and stigma surrounding mental health. Therefore, research that takes these contexts into account and directly involves young people is therefore essential to ensure that policies aimed at supporting adolescents' digital well-being are appropriately designed. To better understand these dynamics, SMERU conducts a study on the impact of social media on the lives and well-being of young people in the Global South. [Click the image](#) to learn more about this study.

Latest Publications



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

This study examines factors influencing education quality in Indonesia using data from the National Assessment (AN) and the Indonesian Madrasah Competency Assessment (AKMI). The findings show that a student-centered curriculum, teacher characteristics, parental involvement, and a positive school environment play important roles in students' learning outcomes. [Click the image](#) to read the full report.

Social Media



Over the past 25 years, SMERU's journey has been enriched by collaborations with many partners. Each partnership brings valuable experiences, lessons, and insights. What are their stories, and how do they reflect on these experiences? [Click the image](#) to read their stories and reflections.

International Women's Day (8 March)



Revealing the Existence and Lives of Female Household Heads Report on the Results of the Community-Based Welfare Monitoring System (SPKBK-PEKKA)

This report, published in 2014, analyzes the results of a family census conducted by the National Secretariat of Women-Headed Households (Seknas PEKKA) and communities across 111 villages in 17 provinces. The findings show that family-based data collection is more gender-sensitive in capturing the conditions of women-headed households than household-based data. Many of the challenges highlighted in the report remain relevant today. [Click the image](#) to read the report.

SMERU in the Media



This article in *Magdalene* highlights how daughters in many Indonesian families are often seen as “security for old age,” as they are expected to care for their parents. SMERU senior researcher Valentina Yulita Dyah Utari notes that this expectation is shaped by long-standing social norms and requires stronger policy support and care services. [Click the image](#) to read the article.

Social Media



In celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March, let us reflect on why women's perspectives matter in research. Women's experiences often offer

different insights into various development issues. Through its studies, SMERU captures these perspectives across a range of research topics. [Click the image](#) to learn more.

Activities



On 10 March, SMERU welcomed Tanareerat Choorith (Wip), Foreign Relations Officer from Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSHDS). The meeting explored SMERU's research, key socioeconomic issues in Indonesia, and experiences in research-based advocacy. It also served as a platform to exchange insights on social challenges faced by Indonesia and Thailand and to highlight SMERU's role in advancing evidence-based policy through research, advocacy, and training.



This March, SMERU joined Rantai Tekstil Lestari (RTL), a nonprofit alliance working to advance a fair, inclusive, and sustainable textile ecosystem in Indonesia. As the country's first multi-stakeholder platform focused on textile sustainability, RTL brings together organizations from across the sector to accelerate the transition toward a more circular industry. For SMERU, this engagement opens opportunities to strengthen the contribution of research in informing more sustainable policies and industry practices.