

The Revolution in Decision Making Among Young Women in Indonesia: A Review of Demographic Data in 1980-1997

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Abstrak

Rindfuss' study of the demographically dense' period among American youth is applied in the Indonesian situation. The research analyses data sets of :lie 1971, 1980 and 1990 Indonesian Population Census and the 1997 National Social and Economic Survey. focusing on women aged 15-24 years. Two hypotheses are examined for rite changes between 1980 cmd 1997: (1) more women remained single and were likely to continue education or join the labor force. and (2) pursuing education was more dominant than pursuing employment. Two-thirds of women aged 15-24 remained unmarried in 1997. From 1971 to 1997. marriage and attending school were becoming alternately exclusive, especially below age 20. Between 1980 and 1997, :lie percentage of those 'working' as main activity dropped slightly, but attending school almost doubled. Another measure, the percentage of women who worked at least one hour in :lie previous week increased as women became older, but in overall it declined within the 17-year period. Less-educated single women were more likely to work. Mothers with young children tended to stay out of the work force. especially or ages 15-19. Single women had higher unemployment rates :nan ever-married women. Policy implications include improvements in schooling and working conditions along will: delaying first marriage.