

Forecasting Political Disruption: The Impending Demographic Bonus in Indonesia.

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Abstract

A demographic bonus is expected in Indonesia between 2030 and 2045 when people of productive age (16-65 years old) will dominate the country's economic and political systems. The purpose of this study is to determine whether the demographic bonus has the potential to produce turmoil in Indonesian politics. This study is based on the 'political demography' idea, which states that having a large number of young people in a country destabilizes its political structure. Three reasons contribute to this: the democratic and political system, economic factors, and prejudice against specific ethnicities and religions. According to the findings of this study, the author discovered factors that have the potential to cause turbulence in Indonesia's political system, such as Indonesia's unstable democratic and political system, as well as discrimination that can lead to protests from minorities against their unequal participation in Indonesian politics.

Keywords; *demographic bonus, democracy, politics, Indonesia, discrimination.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Population, or citizens, is one of the most crucial elements that the State must own for a country to be recognized as a state (Stilz, 2011). Population has several structures, including population size, population growth, population composition, population quality, population dispersion, population welfare conditions, and economic, political, social, cultural, and educational factors, among others. Based on this structure, Indonesia is expected to receive a demographic boost between 2030 and 2045, when 70% of the country's population will be productive, specifically between the ages of 16 and 65 (Holmemo et al., 2020). This occurs once every century in the evolution of populations.

This demographic bonus condition will require the productive age population to bear the non-productive age population. During the demographic bonus, the number of children and the elderly will be extremely low. This is a favorable development for Indonesia's economic and political status. In economic terms, it will benefit Indonesia by enhancing economic growth and innovation, while in health, it will cut death rates in the long run. In terms of politics, it can boost public participation in efforts to build a better government.

As Indonesia approaches the projected demographic bonus, it is critical to look deeper into the potential consequences and issues of this demographic change. One factor to examine is the necessity for appropriate policies and strategies to realize the full potential of the productive age group (Holmemo et al., 2020). This comprises measures aimed at boosting education, skill development, and job opportunities to guarantee that the workforce has the skills required to fuel economic growth and innovation.

Furthermore, attention must be focused on potential social and cultural issues that may arise as a result of this demographic transformation. Significant changes in population mix may result in modifications in societal norms, attitudes, and expectations (Fahey et al., 1998). Policymakers must foresee and resolve any potential societal conflicts or imbalances, ensuring that the demographic bonus advantages are delivered evenly across all parts of society. Indonesia can effectively manage this revolutionary phase and emerge stronger and more resilient in the global arena if it fully understands and addresses the multiple facets of the demographic bonus.

This research will demonstrate that the demographic bonus will increase instability in Indonesian politics. Because the young population will rule society, followed by globalization, the younger generation will be more conscious of the things around them and will think critically. As a result, it is critical to determine whether this demographic bonus would produce political volatility in Indonesia, which will be examined using the 'political demography' hypothesis.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This scientific paper will be studied using qualitative methodologies and the 'political demography' hypothesis, which holds that changes in death rates, birth rates, and so on will alter a country's political situations throughout a demographic transition. According to the notion, demographic changes have an impact on the globe today. An increase in the young population can result in rebellions that disrupt a country's democratic structure. Reason:(Urdal, 2006)

- Unstable democratic or political regimes are predisposed to conflict.
- Economic considerations, such as a weak economy resulting in unemployment, will have an impact on politics.
- Discrimination against a specific ethnicity or faith.

Within these three categories, we shall examine what conditions may produce volatility

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Young people have always been at the center of Indonesian history. As a result, young individuals are always acutely aware of the numerous occurrences that occur. Furthermore, according to estimates from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesia will receive a demographic boost between 2030 and 2045, with up to 207.99 million

individuals in productive age (ages 16 to 65) (BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 2022). This will have an impact on Indonesia's development sector as well as its political situation (Munawarah & Kristanto, 2022).



Figure 1: Indonesia Population Growth Table, 1961–2020

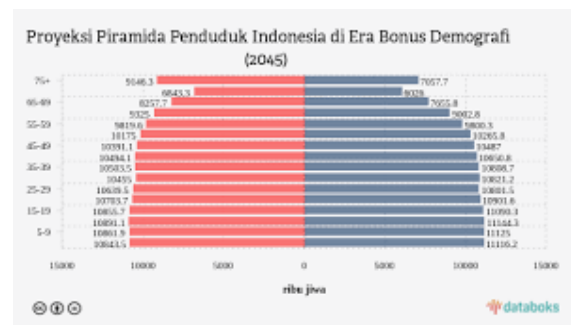


Figure 2: Population Pyramid for Demographic Bonus 2045.

Based on the above-mentioned 'Political Demography' theory, it will be evaluated in three areas: democracy, economy, and discrimination against specific races and religions.

Indonesian Democracy and Politics

Democracy is a people-centered form of government. Laws are made with, by, and for the people. It is also synonymous with holding general elections to select individuals who will represent the people. According to the above-mentioned 'political demography' theory, an unstable political and democratic system will cause turbulence or instability because there are a large number of young people who are aware of the phenomena that occur, including unstable politics in a country. So, in this section, we'll look at the Indonesian political system and democracy.

If you look at the news, there have been some reports recently regarding student protests against laws or laws that aren't working correctly and are solely meant to benefit the authorities (Lee, 2016). For example, the Criminal Code was passed with controversial clauses, such as the reduction of corruption punishment. Many people, particularly young people, were upset by this. They demonstrated by taking to the streets to express their desires, but those in positions of power who should represent the people appeared unconcerned about the situation. This reveals that Indonesia's democratic and political systems remain underdeveloped.

Furthermore, many young people are suspicious of political and government organizations since incidents like the ones described above occur frequently. The popularity of the hashtag #kamitidakperpercayapolisi on Twitter, a social media network dominated by millennials and Generation Z, reflects young people's lack of trust in the government and its institutions. This may also hurt political engagement in Indonesia. Indonesia has low levels of political participation.

Indonesia's Economic Condition

In 2030-2045, Indonesia is expected to experience a demographic bonus, with 64% of the population entering productive age (16-65 years). If used correctly, this circumstance has the potential to boost Indonesia's economy (Wisnumurti et al., 2018). Things that the government can do such: with a large number of young people, there will automatically be many who will look for work, so the government can open many wider job opportunities, and with that companies can increase their innovation because people of productive age have ideas and energy to work to help build the Indonesian economy, so that Indonesian products can compete with other countries in the international market, and the Indonesian economy can be Indonesia may learn from industrialized countries like China, South Korea, and Thailand, which have used demographic bonus conditions to boost their economies.

However, this demographic gain is like a double-edged sword: if it is not used, it will result in losses. For example, if the government is unable to create additional jobs, unemployment will rise and economic growth, which should be positive, would turn negative. As a result, the population of working age is rendered unable to work. This will also be a burden on the country.

The government can begin planning things to support the demographic bonus to strengthen the country's economy, such as providing good educational facilities for the future generation and beginning to welcome people, particularly young people, to start their businesses, with government assistance.

The Indonesian economy is in terrific shape right now. According to BPS data, the Indonesian economy increased by 5.01% in 2022 compared to the previous year. Indonesia's exports of products and services also increased by approximately 16.22% (Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), 2022). If the government can sustain this figure, it is believed that Indonesia can boost economic growth by making good use of the demographic dividend.

Discrimination against specific nationalities and faiths

Indonesia is an archipelago of many tribes, cultures, and languages. Indonesia is renowned as the country with the world's largest Muslim population. However, Indonesia constitutionally recognizes six religions: Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism (Howell, 1982). This varied Indonesia is unified by a single motto: *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, or 'Though Different, We Remain One'. With this philosophical credo, can Indonesia retain its unity as a single country despite its diverse tribes, languages, and ethnicities?

Conflict is a natural part of social life. In Indonesia, confrontations between ethnic and religious groups are not uncommon. Indonesia has a long history of conflict over

disagreements. For example, in 1998, many Chinese people were killed as a result of riots.

In law, every society is thought to be equal. As stated in Article 25, paragraph 1 of the 1945 Constitution:

.....all citizens have equal standing in law and government and must uphold the law and government without exception, and paragraph 2 states that every citizen has the right to labor and a living worthy of humanity....

However, the law is merely a formal order that is disregarded by certain Indonesians who live in a diverse society. Minorities face discrimination in politics as well. For example, in Islam, it is believed that the individual who leads Muslims must likewise be Muslim. This has established a tradition in Indonesian politics because Muslims account for the vast majority of the population (Mujani & Liddle, 2004). All of Indonesia's presidents and most high-ranking officials, such as mayors and governors, are Muslims. This does not demonstrate the equality proclaimed by Indonesian constitutional law itself.

If studied using the 'political demography' theory, it is believed that this could disrupt Indonesia's political system if the government does not take it seriously. Because Indonesia is entering a demographic bonus period, many young people who are open-minded and critical will begin to question this. This might be disastrous for the country since minorities believe they are unfairly excluded from political participation just because they are not Muslim. To live a tranquil existence, it is necessary to understand and practice tolerance. The government must play a role in achieving this goal.

Based on the three assessments shown above, it is clear that the demographic bonus that will occur in Indonesia between 2030 and 2045 has the potential to trigger political instability. The author sees this potential in two areas: Indonesia's political system and democracy, which are still low and unstable, causing young people to potentially not exercise their voting rights during elections and reduce political participation, disrupting the Indonesian political system. Then, a lack of tolerance and openness to differences has the potential to destroy communal cohesiveness since there is a sense of unfairness when a minority desires to participate in politics. To address this, the government must review inappropriate practices and enact policies that benefit all parties.

4. CONCLUSION

All countries will benefit from demographic dividends, albeit at various times. This state is anticipated to emerge in Indonesia between 2030 and 2045. This demographic bonus condition is like a double-edged sword: it can help a country but can also cost it if not used appropriately. The demographic bonus has the potential to disrupt Indonesia's political system because the country's political and democratic systems are still weak and unstable, causing people, particularly young people, to lose trust in the government,

resulting in lower political participation and a more conflictual society. Furthermore, because individuals are still unable to accept differences, it has the potential to produce turbulence in the political system because minorities believe they do not have equal rights as the majority. The government must take a role in developing regulations that are fair to all parties.

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