

Youth within Transition: Recent Developments of Education and Employment in Yogyakarta

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Abstract

Yogyakarta as a barometer for the development of national education offers the potential of educated and young human resources. It is hoped that this potential will trigger productive works by youths to contribute responding to the bonus demography and national development. From the perspective of economic growth, Yogyakarta tends to an increasing trend when compared to the national economy which tends to decline. However, that increasing trend can become a problem when the educated youth are considered to be unproductive and failed to transition from education to employment. Methodologically, the aforementioned problems have strategic value to be studied and can be utilized by regional decision makers in managing the bonus demography. For that end, the researcher used the Indonesian Statistics Bureau's (BPS) youth statistics data from 2003-2013. Following this, a literature review and secondary data analysis are the best choices to track the dynamics between education and labor data in Yogyakarta's youths from year to year. The finding, when the GDRP of Yogyakarta since 2003 to 2013 hangs on the trading, tourism and services sectors. Optimism towards those three sectors do show a percentage increase, but it is not in sync with the education potential and employment for the youth. There is a transition from young labor who are self- or family-employed into low-rank employees and paid labor. The effect is twofold. First, the data show that unemployed youths become stagnant and the highest completed education is high school. This shows a failure of transition among youths from secondary education to higher education. Second, this failure prevents youths from moving into a higher income bracket and traps them in below-average wages. In conclusion, the fact that two out of three of Yogyakarta's youths go through higher education and are still trapped in certain income indicates that the regional planning agenda has yet to involve youths. In reality, economic growth is still reliant on the services and consumption sectors, and thus a transitory approach is needed that can involve the youths not as an object but as a main feature of Yogyakarta's istimewa.

Keyword: bonus demography, education, employment, Yogyakarta, youth transition