A Snapshot of Health and Early Childhood Development in Indonesia:

Baseline Results

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Abstract (299 words)

The paper is part of impact evaluation study of early childhood education and development program in Indonesia. Using the baseline result, we want to show child development outcome in this country and how they are doing comparatively to other countries. It describes the condition of children from various aspects including health status, socio economic condition, cognitive development, behavior as well as the existing early childhood services and its utilization.

Child development outcome is measured using Early Development Instrument (EDI), Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), and The Dimensional Change Card Sorting (DCCS). Stunting and wasting are used as proxy of malnutrition. Using the principal component analysis based on household assets, household who stay at the 20 percent bottom quintile categorized as poor. Through randomized control sampling trial, sample is collected from around 6370 children age 1 and 4 years old from 310 villages in nine districts. In addition, subject also includes household and caregiver. Data at community level is collected from village official and health care staff.

Based on EDI, study shows a high level of vulnerability in language and cognitive domain, yet has a positive result in social competence domain. The vulnerability in language and cognitive possibly due to inadequate cognitive stimulation at home, low parental education, and poverty status. Statistical analysis supports the literature finding that language and cognitive ability as well as social competence significantly associates with gender and poverty status. From SDQ, we find there is an indication of hyperactivity/inattention symptom among the children whereas strength is found in pro social domain. Among the four year old group, based on the executive function test, Indonesian children perform better than children in the Philippines and quite similar with those in Jordan. Lastly, this paper concludes with policy recommendations.

Keywords: child development outcome, Indonesia, EDI, SDQ, Card Sorting

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