

Major Education Problems in Indonesia

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In a seminar about “Education Development in Indonesia”, the World Bank Indonesia (WBI) identified three major education problems:

1. Education quality - disparity of quality among schools, teacher quality and commitment to teach, school facilities and management.
2. Inequity problem - the larger the gap of enrollment between the poor and the rich, and rural versus urban.
3. Governance – efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

The WBI also identified reasons of not going to school among out-of-school children (age 7-18 years)

Reason	Male (%)	Female (%)
Do not have money	35.31	36.24
Do not like to go to school	3.36	3.14
Have to work for a living	36.38	10.95
Marriage/have to do housework	3.55	27.78
School's too far (distance)	2.21	2.68
Disabled	0.40	0.35
Others	18.79	18.86

Source: Education Statistics, CBS, 2006

If we relate the drop out issue to the composition of the working force, it mostly is not too surprising that the majority of Indonesia working force (50% out of 111 million workers) has elementary school graduates (or below) as their education level. The junior high and high school graduates follow with 19% and 15% respectively, while the working force with vocational education represents 9% of the total working force (Source: Central Statistic Bureau, February, 2011)

Recently, the Education Ministry's director general of basic and middle education, Suyanto said after opening the 2010 International Mathematics and Science Olympics in Denpasar that “only 1 million of 2.7 million teachers meet qualification, such as holding a bachelor's degree or passing the certification test”. He said 56% of elementary school teachers did not pass certification tests. “Many of them are not capable enough. They lack creativity, innovation and expertise with technology, despite the challenges and demands facing them in the era of globalization” (Jakarta Post, October 13, 2010)

In his article dated February 4, 2008, on “Christian Schools and the Current Trends”, Ishak S. Wonohadidjojo, Ed. D explore the idea about providing enough Christian teachers to meet the need of Christian schools all over Indonesia. He argues that the true Christian education requires good and committed Christian teachers in molding the next generation of Christian. There should be more Christian young people giving their life to the field of Christian education. Pastors are the ones who have the best position and authority to envision and to challenge them through their pulpits.