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Gender Issues in Indonesia: Policy, Programs and Challenges

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to understand Gender and Development (GAD) policies and programs in Indonesia. The role of donors agencies in gender and development initiatives is also analysed. To accomplish the above objectives, government institutions, donor agencies and selected NGOs had been visited and several relevant officials were interviewed during the 2 months data collection in Jakarta.

This paper is divided into several parts, first, laws relating to gender are documented and government institutions' policies and programs related to GAD is described; second, donor agencies' policy and initiative on GAD is analysed and NGOs working in the area of women's issues is reviewed. The last section of the paper will evaluate how newly established innovative policies and program on gender affected the status of women in Indonesia.

Due to the political, social, religious and economical turmoil, Indonesia is undergoing an interesting period. Beginning in the 'Era of Reformation' a few years ago, the state, politics, policy and programs relating to sexuality and gender are more open and in the forefront of changing. The issue of decentralization and the innovative policy established by the State Ministry for Women's Empowerment (Presidential Degree on Gender Mainstreaming in all policy and programs (in progress), restructuring with the State Ministry and the implementation of Gender Analysis Pathway nation wide) as well as the new sensitive approaches towards gender in the National Family Planning Coordinating Board Office (Training and Research Centre for Women's Empowerment, Division on Male's Roles in Family Planning, Division on Consumer Rights and Insurance on Family Planning and Division on Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights) are some of the new initiatives that strive to empower Indonesian women.