



Organisasi Perburuhan Internasional - Jakarta  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### **New ILO Study Looks at Impact of Early School Drop out and Child Labour in Indonesia**

JAKARTA (ILO News): Indonesian young people who drop out of school before completing junior secondary education are likely to earn much less later in life, be more prone to unemployment and to be in less secure employment.

These are some of the main findings of a new survey of the International Labour Organization (ILO) which looks at the employment situation of young people across Indonesia. The ILO will release the results of this new survey on Monday, 12 June 2006, at ILO Jakarta Office in association with the commemoration of the World Day against Child Labour.

The survey found that compared to the national unemployment rate of 10.4 %, around 66% of out of school 17-18 year olds were unemployed, with the rate falling to 53% for 19-20 year old and 20% for those aged 23-24.

Commenting on the report, ILO Jakarta Deputy Director Peter Rademaker said that “This report is powerful evidence of the need to keep children below 15 out of the workforce, and in school. A child who drops out of school and begins work might in the short term contribute to family income, but as an adult the child is likely to be significantly less successful than those who complete their education.”

He also emphasized that the main findings of the survey, supported with other relevant data, have provided clear evidence that there is a large pool of unemployed young people, many of whom are undereducated and unskilled, sharply reducing their employability. “This problem needs to be addressed by promoting greater education and training opportunities to young people. This would not only help the youth concerned, but would be an effective investment in the future of Indonesia’s economy.”

Among the main findings of the survey are that:

- Dropping out from basic education was mainly a result of the costs of participation in education. 33% had left school before completing junior secondary education and 20% had begun working.
- The survey found extremely high unemployment among the out of school 15-17 age group (71%) with the rate declining gradually until young people reached the age of 23-24 (20%)

- Among the employed and self employed the survey found a significant earnings difference between those who had completed junior secondary school and those who did not. Among the employed, earnings of those who had completed school were 56% higher and among the self employed 39% higher.
- 85% of working 15-17 year olds lacked a contract. Someone who had completed junior secondary school was three times more likely to have a contract than someone who had dropped out.
- 33% of respondents said yes to a question “Have you ever felt the way you earned money meant your personal safety was in some way at risk i.e. working on the streets, or at night in dangerous situations”.
- Very few young people had ever received career counselling, but those who did found it useful.
- Those who drop out are likely to get married and have their first child on average two years before those who complete basic education. Early marriage and early child birth can be factors related to future incidence of poverty, which in turn generates future child labour.

The survey was implemented by a leading social market research company, Taylor Nelson Soffres (TNS), in early 2006. It surveyed more than 2,500 young people in eight provinces spread throughout Indonesia (DKI Jakarta, West Java, East Java, North Sumatra, East Kalimantan, Papua, South Sulawesi and East Nusatenggara). Respondents came from the lower half of the socio economic scale (socio economic groups C2, D and E), and were aged between 15-29 years.

The ILO is presently working with the Government of Indonesia to support implementation of the National Action Plan on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the Indonesian Youth Employment Action Plan.

The World Day is observed worldwide on or around 12 June each year. This year’s theme is “The End of Child Labour: Together We Can Do It”, focusing on the recent ILO global report entitled “The end of child labour: within reach” which was released in May. The report shows that child labour has decreased worldwide for the first time, dropping by 11 per cent from 246 million to 218 million between 2000 and 2004. It also believes worst forms of child labour could feasibly be eliminated in the next 10 years.

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