

# INDONESIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

## EXPECTATION AND REALITY IN ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has one of the fastest economic growing country in South-east Asia.

While Indonesia has enjoyed sustained economic growth, people are feeling that they might be heading to or are already in the “middle income trap” as they lose their competitiveness in sectors such as manufacturing to newly emerging countries.

According to UNESCO, in order for growing economic countries to avoid such a trap, access to higher education is crucially important.

Indonesia compare to other economic powerhouses such as, Japan (63.3%), United States (85.8%), the rate of students attending university in Indonesia is low (31%).

The aim of this project is to determine the factors that affect the number of students that go to university through direct exchange of ideas, including conducting survey and interviewing local people in Jakarta City.

### HYPOTHESIS

Regarding to the background of Indonesia, two causes could be concerned.

First of all, poverty could be mentioned. According to the World Bank, population of Indonesia’s middle class is growing rapidly. Middle class occupied a majority part of the society; however, the gap between the low middle class and the high middle class is huge. Therefore, it could be assumed that people especially in the low middle class cannot afford school fee after the compulsory education.

Moreover, Indonesian people have different perspective towards education. They might prioritize education lower that we do. Especially Javanese values “selamat”, meaning “peace” for that moment but not for the future<sup>1)</sup>, thus people might spend their income for daily use to fulfill their daily “peacefulness” not for future “investment”.

1) Kenji Ogasawara, Malay Society Class, SFC Keio University 2017

UNESCO - The Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau’s Education Support Strategy (2014 - 2021)  
UNESCO - Students attending university statistics (2015)

### METHODOLOGY



INTERVIEW



SURVEY



RESIDENTS OF LENTENG AGUNG  
STUDENTS IN DARUNNAJAH BOARDING SCHOOL  
PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN PULAU PRAMUKA



PULAU PRAMUKA



DARUNNAJAH ISLAMIC  
BOARDING SCHOOL



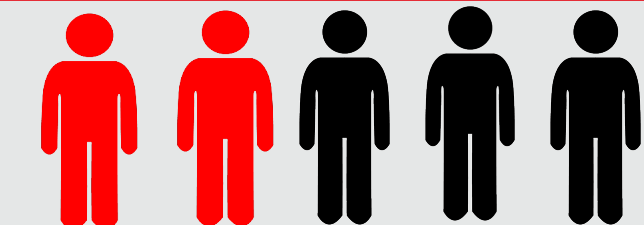
LENTENG AGUNG

### CONCLUSION

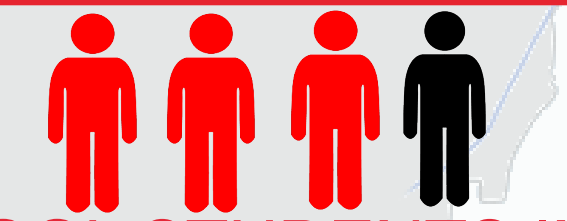
While there are people who answered that religion is more important than higher education, most of the students strongly think of pursuing higher education. Most of the parents would like to send their children to university, however, financial priorities affect parents’ decision of sending their children to university. Living in remote island, attending Islam school or having Islam as a religion do not affect students’ decision of pursuing higher education.

### RESULTS

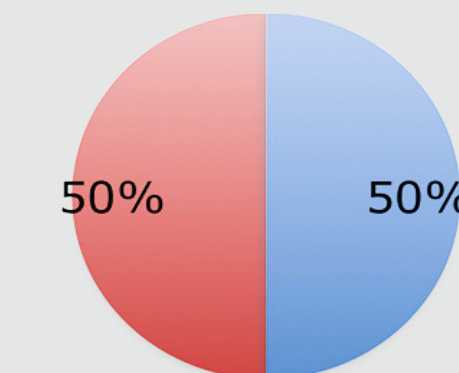
2 out of 5 parents stated that religion is more important than higher education because religion gives moral, and without moral people can not be admirable



3 out of 4 parents who live in Lenteng Agung and Pulau Pramuka stated that they couldn’t send their children to university due to lack of investment



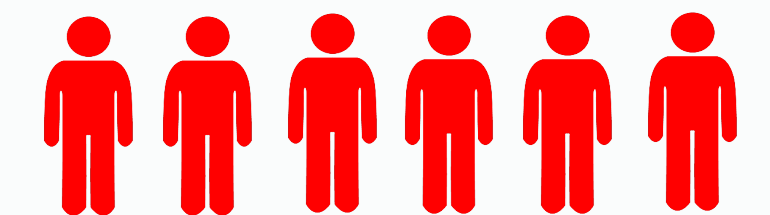
#### CHOICES OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PULAU PRAMUKA



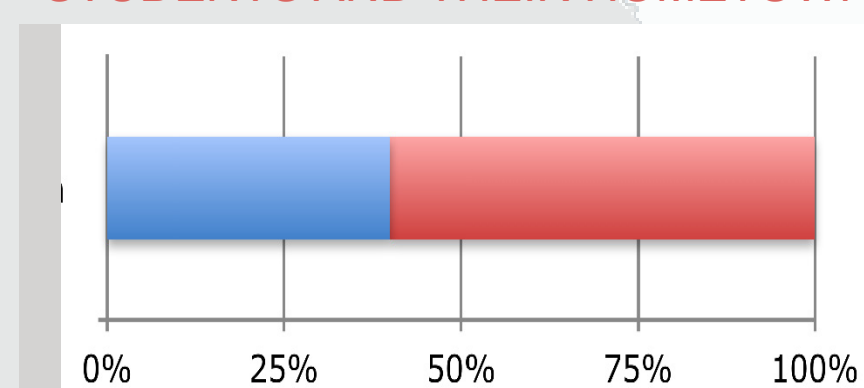
50% of Pulau Pramuka high school students go to university while other 50% go to work straight after graduating high school.

GOING TO UNIVERSITY NOT GOING TO UNIVERSITY

100% of the students answered that they would like to pursue higher education



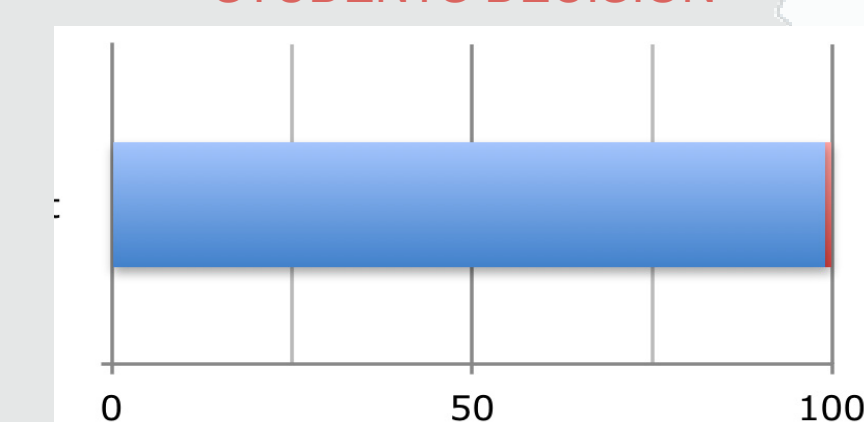
#### STUDENTS AND THEIR HOMETOWN



Students of Darunnajah Islamic Boarding School consists of 60% not from Jakarta and 40% from Jakarta go to university.

FROM OUTSIDE JAKARTA FROM JAKARTA

#### STUDENTS DECISION



99% of Graduates of Darunnajah Islamic Boarding School go to university while only 1~2 graduates stay in the school and to be assistants of Darunnajah.

NOT GOING TO UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY