

Young and Single as Non-sexual Beings: Politics of Reproductive Health in Indonesia

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Abstrak

The justification of this paper is to see how Indonesia's socio-cultural, religious and political settings surrounding reproductive health education and services for young people have evolved and whether any progresses have been made since the 1994 ICPD Population Program of Action. Why do the Indonesian government still demonstrate a very conservative approach towards sexuality even though increasing numbers of STDs/HW/AIDS, premarital sex and unsafe premarital abortion are more apparent among young people? Why is reproductive health still absent from the public policy agenda? And why has these issues been forgotten-hidden ' and not being properly addressed? Discussion will also be focus on how the government still treats young Indonesian as a non-sexual being. This paper is based on the 1994/95 Sexuality and Marriage Values Survey and field research in Indonesia during August 2000-March 2001. The survey was funded by the Demography and Sociology Program, Australian National University while the Australian Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs through the Merdeka Fellowship program sponsored the second part of the data collection.