

Disclosing the History from Demographic Perspectives: Javanese women and children in 1830-1960s

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Abstrak

Many studies of the history of South East Asian countries (particularly Indonesia) never or just pay a scant attention to the writing of the history (historiography) fails to raise the demographic issues. It is then comprehensible that inadequate understanding of the issues does not bring about a significant change in the course of the historiographic processes in South East Asia. The demographic issues may be not given or a new for social sciences such as anthropology, sociology, and geography. Conversely, demography becomes increasingly special when the history uses it to reconstruct the past events. The existing experiences place more emphasis on the demographic issues as set of figures from time to time having no significant roles in disclosing the historical events. The demographic issues generally represent smallest effects compared with other political issues, war, ethnic conflict, and the major issues having substantive effects. The understanding and reconstruction of the history as the past events are more often interpreted as dialogical process between the state and power. The history of identification with social reality of demography is only accommodated a small pattern of various historical issues which in general is strictly confined to romanticism of the nation people without demographic sense. This might be the case since the data indicate the high population growth, high birth, and high mortality in the past. In general, women and children living in several residencies such as Kedu, Surakarta, and Surabaya have lower survival rate in the course of the second half of the nineteenth century throughout twentieth century as reflected in mortality rate experienced by two groups (women and children) in several different places such as in Kedu, Surakarta, and Surabaya in 1916-1921. However, there is a serious problem in the source validity related to quantitative where some historians are still doubtful about their consistencies. Therefore, to overcome vacancy in the sources of data in several periods, some historians use the oral sources through interview as they do in revealing some problems in Surabaya. This method is particularly undertaken by combining quantitative and qualitative sources