

Physical Functioning among Older Persons in Indonesia

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This is an on-going study on demographic-socio-economic correlates of older persons' physical functioning in Indonesia. It follows Sen's and Nussbaum's approach that development is an expansion of human capability and enhancement of valuable human functioning. This approach has been utilized by the UN in its recent annual *Human Development Report*.

This paper evaluates the welfare of a segment of Indonesia's population, the older persons, by focusing on their physical functioning. It utilizes the recently available data in the 2015 Indonesia's Intercensal population survey. Other functioning are not discussed here since there is no such data in the survey. The objective and main contribution of the paper is its evaluation on the correlation of socio-economic-demographic condition with physical functioning in Indonesia.

The study starts with analysis of the published data of the survey, producing aggregate statistics for each functioning. It finds that, among these physical functioning, the difficulty in vision is more common than others. About 33.8% of older persons have difficulty in visual function, and 24.3% in hearing function. Walking and stepping stairs as an indicator for physical independence and mobility is about 22.6%, much higher than difficulty in hand function (8.7%). Taking into account age variation, there are similar patterns of increasing trends for each of these physical impairments. Older women seem disadvantaged in each of these functions. Older persons living in rural areas are more likely to suffer from limitations in physical functioning.

It then goes to the main analysis by using the individual raw data set of the survey. Currently, we are in the process of doing this analysis.