

## PREFACE

The current issue of *Populasi Journal*, Volume 32, Number 2, December 2024, features five articles. One is contributed by an African researcher, while the remaining four are from Indonesian scholars. The articles delve into various demographic issues, including fertility rates, aging populations, early marriage, child protection, and youth leadership.

Martin Enock Palamuleni's opening article examines the decreasing fertility rates in Malawi through a decomposition analysis. According to researcher, fertility is declining in Malawi and the fall is clustered among women younger than 30 years of age. The contribution of marital fertility to the decline of Total Fertility Rate was 65.0% during the period 1992–2000, 89.5% during 2000–2004, 2.6% during 2004–2010, and 4.3% during 2010–2015, respectively. Over the same period, the respective contribution of the proportion married was 29.4%, 10.8%, 77.9%, and 92.6%. These percentages suggest that marital fertility followed by the proportion of married were important factors before 2005. After 2005, fertility levels and patterns in Malawi are largely influenced by nuptiality. However, there is need for further studies to explain the marriage and fertility nexus in the Malawian context.

Following this, the subsequent article authored by Atina Asyfa Amania and Hardius Usman delves into the topic of 'The Effect of Per Capita Expenditure on the Working Status of the Elderly in Indonesia'. The increasing number of elderly people indicates that Indonesia has begun to enter the second demographic bonus. This stage can be beneficial if the elderly remain productive and contribute to development. The results of this study explain that per capita expenditure has a significant effect on the working status of the elderly, but the effect is different in terms of place of residence, age, gender, head of household status, marital status, education level, health complaint status, and ownership of health insurance.

In addition, the third article by Budi Wahyuni and team discusses the rising trend of early marriage among poor people in Sumatra. The authors analyze this issue by looking at Law No. 16 of 2019 and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The results of their research explain an increasing trend in child-age marriage practices. This is typically caused by, among other things, a lack of understanding of Law No. 16 of 2019 and a low level of education about sexual and reproductive health rights, which led to unwanted pregnancies, school dropouts, and poverty.

On the other hand, the fourth article, authored by M. Indra Hadi Wijaya and colleagues, highlights the issue of 'Transformation of District/City Response Patterns for Child Protection during Post Covid-19, Case Study of Central Java Province, Indonesia'. Covid-19 for three years has become an inseparable part of the lives of urban and rural communities. The impact occurs, such as the impact of Covid-19 on children. Children are a vulnerable part of society during a pandemic, about the conditions for their health, education, and protection. Their findings explain that not all city/district areas have a response to child protection during the Covid-19 pandemic, urban areas are more responsive to this condition. Increasing the role of protection for children during a pandemic is an important part of the process of returning to the new normal.

Finally, the fifth article by Asraar Kamal Azmi and the team focuses on 'Youth Leadership Development through the Patriot Desa Program of West Java'. One of the provinces with a lower percentage change in The National Youth Development Index (YDI) than expected is

West Java, which is at the bottom of the list. This is ironic considering that 20% of Indonesia's total youth reside in West Java. However, according to the authors, in particular, the village patriots who served in the research locations were highly dedicated with a self-sacrificing attitude and always collaborated with various parties, so that they could bring about changes in the village in social, economic, and environmental aspects. However, these things are also inseparable from the influence of pre-deployment orientation and the role of the regional coordinator who is very supportive as a mentor. Youth involvement in community empowerment programs can be a means of developing youth leadership. Therefore, the government needs to involve more youth in other programs so that there is an increase in the domain value of youth participation and leadership.

In conclusion, the five articles featured in this December 2024 issue of the *Populasi Journal* offer valuable insights and expand the readers' knowledge and understanding. We hope you enjoy reading them.

December 2024

**Editor in Chief,**  
Muhadjir Darwin