The Association between Demand for Caregiving to the Elderly and Migration of Young Adult Household Members in Indonesia:

Longitudinal Evidence from the Indonesian Family Life Survey

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Indonesia's population is expected to undergo rapid ageing in the next few decades. While the traditional norm that adult children are expected to support their parents is firmly embedded in intergenerational relationships, there has been relatively little policy attention paid to the needs of the growing elderly population. As a result, there is a lack of public systems for social safety and caregiving. The rapid population aging with the traditional caregiving regime can influence the migration of the young-adult population; one of the most salient dimensions of the Indonesian demography. Using longitudinal data drawn from the Indonesia Family Life Survey, this paper presents an empirical analysis of the association between demand for caregiving to elderly household members and the propensity of young adult household members to migrate. Findings from the analysis suggest that the likelihood of migration is lower for those living with elderly household members in poor health conditions. The effect of living closer to parents in poor health conditions is more significant, suggesting that the need for caregiving to elderly parents can be an impediment to the migration of their adult children. The results of the longitudinal analysis also confirm the correlation between the number of siblings and the likelihood of migration. These findings imply a future decline in migration among the younger cohorts, who will face increasing physical and physiological burdens in supporting their parents and other elderly family members as a result of the continuing fertility decline and shrinking family size.