



# INDONESIA DEVELOPMENT FORUM

INSPIRE • IMAGINE • INNOVATE



Indonesia Development Forum 2017

## **Fighting Inequality for Better Growth**

Jakarta, 9-10 August 2017



# Multidimensional Inequality: Evidence and Proposal

Firman Witoelar  
SurveyMeter  
ALMI

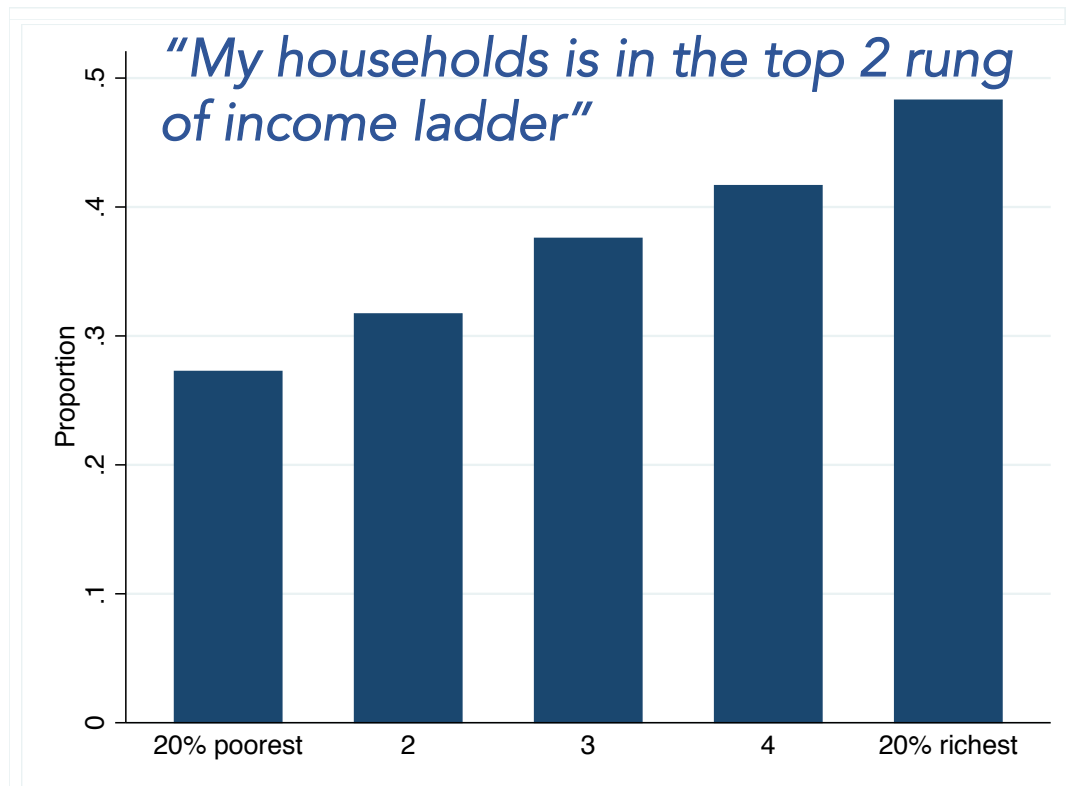
# Like poverty, inequality is multi-dimensional

- Income
- Wealth
- Health
- Education
- ....and other measures of well-being

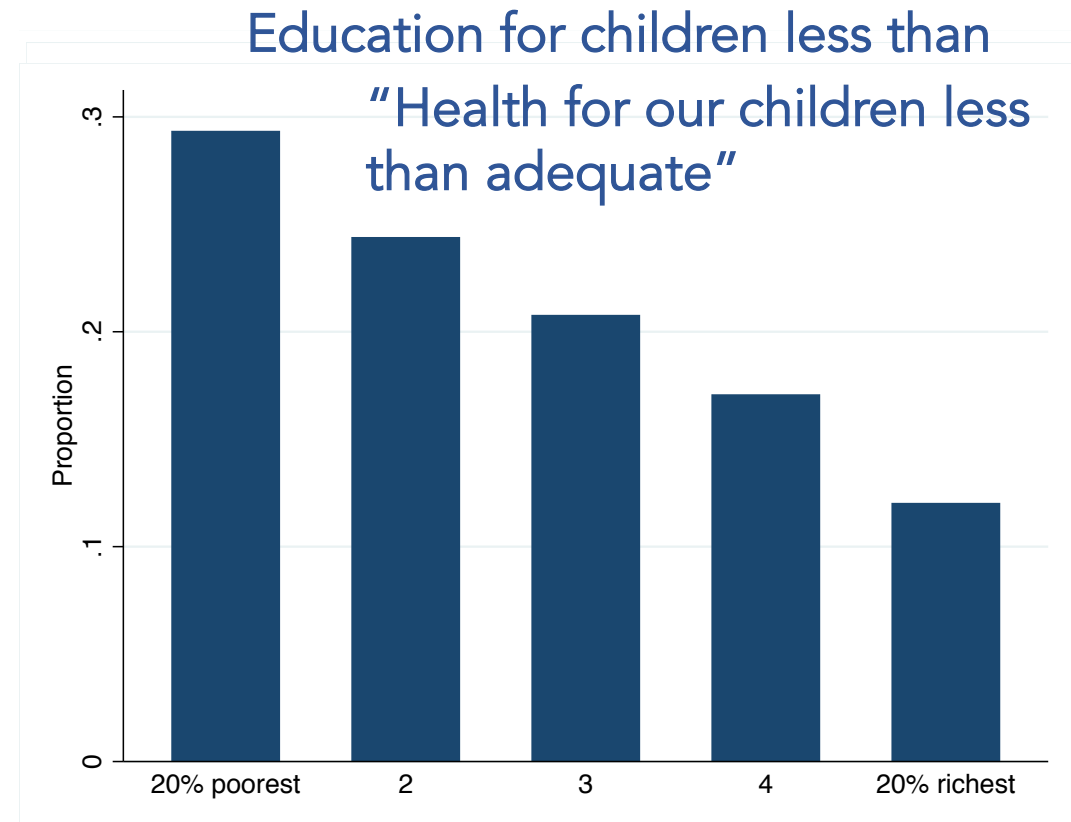
(single index of multi-dimensional poverty may not be the answer)

# Subjective well-being measures to complement existing poverty measures

Think about an income ladder from 1 to 6, 1 being the poorest, 6 the richest

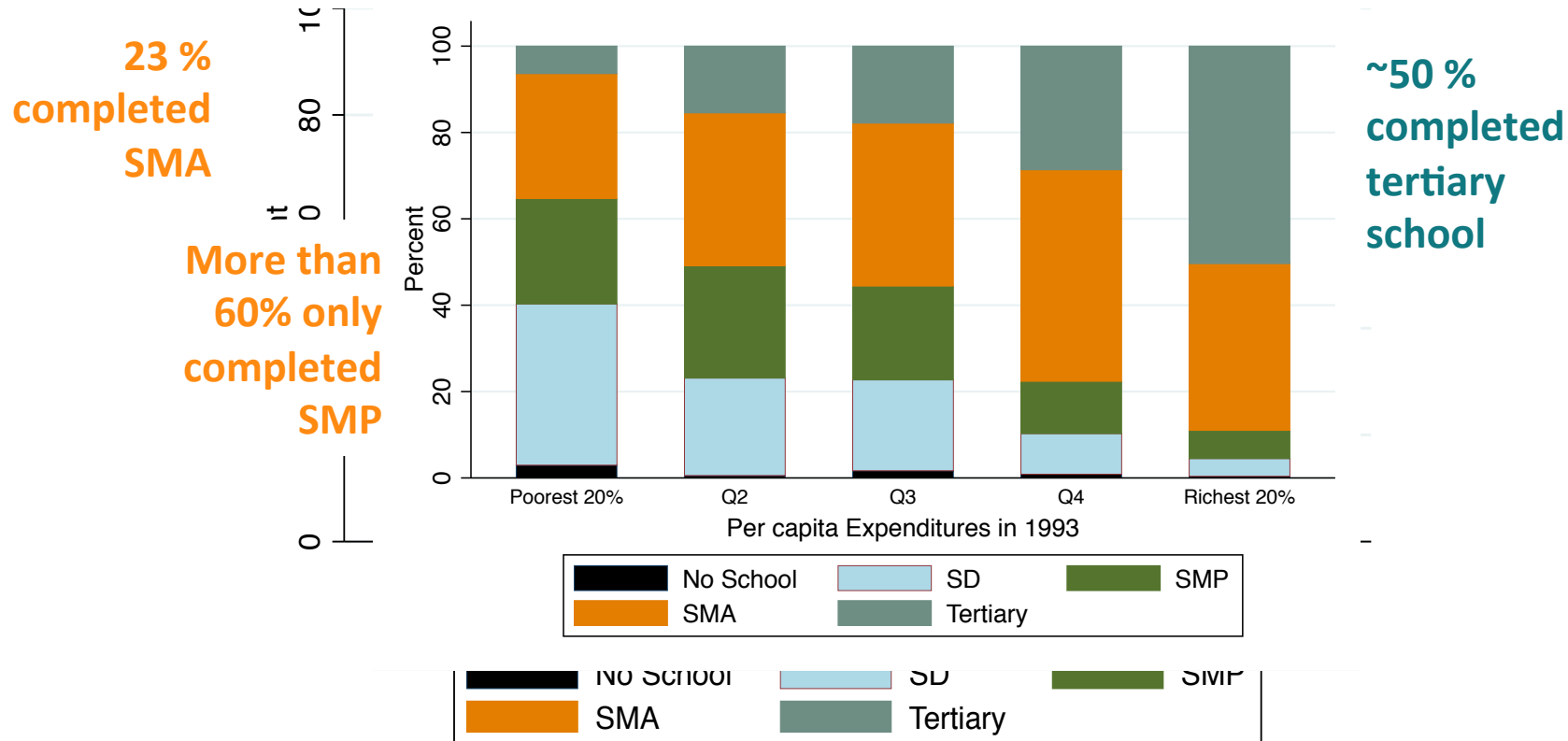


Consumption adequacy



# Like poverty, inequality may be transmitted across generations

## Household economic condition 1993 and child's schooling in 2014



# Like poverty, inequality may be transmitted across generations



Full Length Article

## Intergenerational correlations of health among older adults: Empirical evidence from Indonesia

Younoh Kim<sup>a</sup>, Bondan Sikoki<sup>c</sup>, John Strauss<sup>b,\*</sup>, Firman Witoelar<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Eastern Michigan University, United States

<sup>b</sup> University of Southern California, United States

<sup>c</sup> Survey Meter, Indonesia

### ARTICLE INFO

Article history:  
Available online xxx

Keywords:  
Intergenerational  
Transmission  
Health  
Elderly  
Indonesia

### ABSTRACT

It is widely believed that family background has a significant influence on children's life. The vast majority of the existent literature has focused on the relationship between parents' education and income and the education and income of their children. Surprisingly, much less work has been done on the intergenerational transmission, or correlations of health. The main objective of this paper is to examine the correlations of health across generations using the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS). We take advantage of the richness of IFLS and examine several health measures of respondents, including self-reports and physical measurements. As measures of health of both parents, IFLS has information on whether they are dead at the time of the last wave in 2007, their general health status and whether they have difficulties with any ADLs at the time of the survey or in the year before death. The findings suggest strong intergenerational correlations between the measure of parental health, schooling, and the health of their

- health of older adults (50+ years old) correlated with health of *their* parents
- older adults with poor health status are less likely to have parents still alive
- ... more likely to have parents who have difficulties in ADL

(Kim, Sikoki, Strauss, Witoelar, 2015)

Like poverty, inequality is multi-dimensional

Inequality may be inter-generational

Focusing only cross-sectional inequality, miss a more important picture

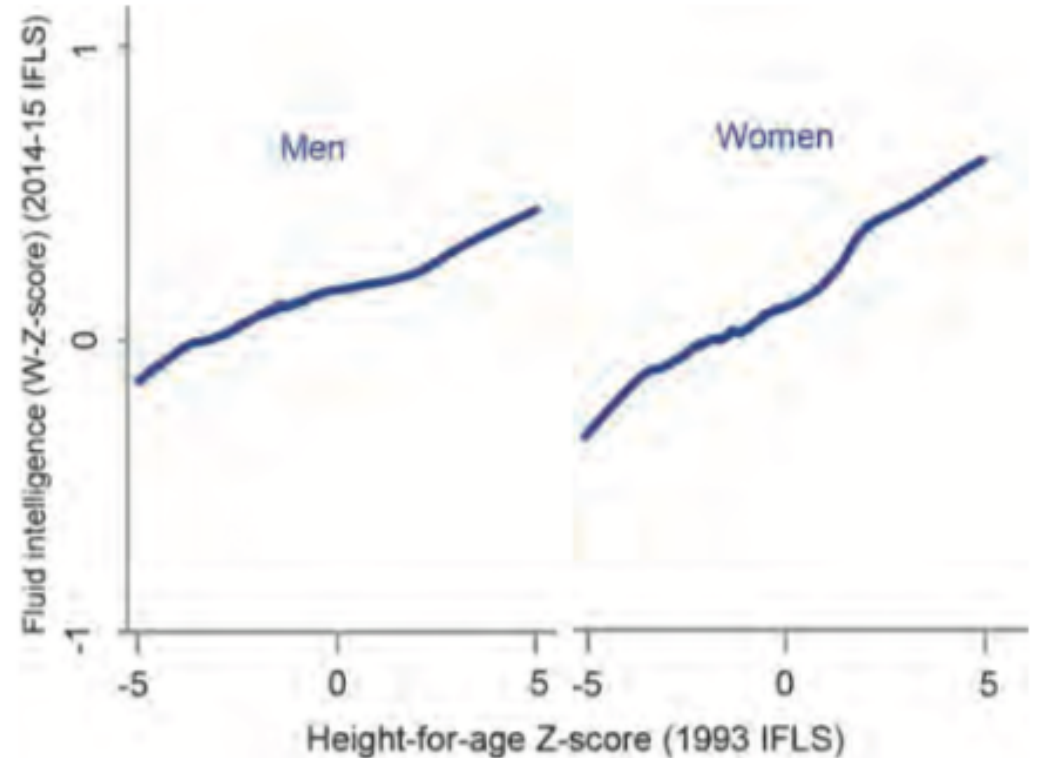
Need to focus on intergenerational (im)mobility

## Exposure of early childhood adversities leads to long term consequences

- lower cognitive function
- lower stature
- lower adult earnings

(Giles, Satriawan, Witoelar, 2017)

Figure 38: Association between child stunting (Height-for-age Z score) and fluid intelligence (W Z-score) in later life, Indonesia



Source: Giles, Satriawan, and Witoelar, 2017 (based on IFLS data)



# A proposal

- To take not only multi-dimensional but also inter-generational view of poverty and inequality
- Long-term, longer than election cycle
- The use of longitudinal data (such as IFLS) need not be limited to academics
- Other/new longitudinal survey? e.g, SLAK
- More attention to marginalized groups still unlikely to be covered by statistics

# Thank you