

Indonesian "Modern" in Daily Life

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Short Abstract

This paper will analyze the grass-roots level of modernization of daily life in Indonesia. For this purpose, this presentation will focus on negative human nature like envy and shame, and also relationships with neighbors, family members, and friends. From this case study, we may also seek hints for alternative modern.

About Indonesia

Indonesia has been recognized as a developing country for about 70 years after its independence. In recent years, Indonesia became one of the promising countries for international investment, and the people are also enjoying the rapid growth of the economy more than ever. Such economic condition of the state is also accelerating the changes of peoples' lifestyle from its traditional forms to modernized, individualistic ones.

General Features of Modernization in Daily Life

Changing the materials of daily supplies (from organics to plastic, steel, ceramic, etc).

Dependence on fossil fuels.

Install of electrical appliances.

Construction of closed house system (bathroom, toilet, and kitchen inside the house).

Changing relationships

Living in the Condition of Uncertainty

Because of the benefits from modern technologies, living condition of Indonesian people is becoming convenient, but also getting unstable because of unreliable electric supply, rapidly rising fuel prices, and environmental disruptions. They are shifting to market-oriented society and losing free access to resource. In this process, traditional resources (such as cracked palm shell or river water) is becoming worthless. Although I think the tropical climate and the tropical plants are the real treasure for Indonesian people. They are now going to ignore the richness of biological diversity and losing the merit in the process of modernization.

Reasonings of Modernization

Positive reasonings like rationality, convenience, sanitation are often taken as the main motives for modernization. However, a modernization is not always going in an organized way with such positive reasonings if we see the grass-roots level cases.

Negative human nature like jealousy, envy, greed, and shame often push the modernization in daily life. Such human feelings are based on the relationship with neighbors, family members, friends and it is what should focus on too. These feelings are also irrationally make free independent men to be market-subjugated ones.

From Dis-connecting to Re-connected

The main problem is neither poverty nor propertyless, but what they are losing now: free access to common property or natural resources, sharing of resources, and mutual help.