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## Indonesia: Madrasah Schools to Promote Gender Equity - 2007

Diversifying partnerships in the drive to achieve universal basic education through the private sector is the essence of the new Education Law (2003) in Indonesia.



Madrasah schools provide an opportunity to enroll more girls, especially in junior secondary education.

Photo: Ariel Javellana/ ADB.

Diversifying partnerships in the drive to achieve universal basic education through the private sector is the essence of the new Education Law (2003) in Indonesia. An efficient and effective madrasah system is required to achieve the Government's key education policy of universal 9-year basic education, and gender equity in senior secondary education. Partnership between Ministry of National Education (MONE) and Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) is key to realizing this Government strategy.

Madrasah schools are particularly attractive to the poorest rural students, who are also the hardest to reach. Madrasah schools attract more girls than general schools. Girls constitute half of all madrasah students. The madrasah system captures those girls that would normally drop out after completing primary school. Madrasah schools provide an opportunity to enroll more girls, especially in junior secondary education. If madrasah schools were not available, some girls would not be in school at all.

**The madrasah also provide the opportunity to enroll more girls. Some girls in madrasah would not be in school at all if madrasah were not available, especially after primary school." —ADB Project RRP (2006)**

In November 2006, ADB approved a loan and technical assistance grant to the Republic of Indonesia for a Madrasah Education Development Project. The project includes a gender action plan with specific actions aimed at maintaining current gender balance among teachers, providing gender sensitive training for teachers, awarding transition scholarship for girls, encouraging female participation in madrasah school committees (at least 30%), and better reporting against gender actions in project progress reports.

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- 37475-013: Madrasah Education Development
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