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## **Abstract**

# **The Changing Context of Teenage Marriage in Southeast Asia**

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With the emphasis on increasing delay in marriage in Southeast Asia, we tend to assume that teenage marriage is a thing of the past. To a large extent this is so, but there are two reasons why attention should still be given to teenage marriage. First, in some areas, notably parts of Indonesia and Southern Thailand, teenage marriage remains very common. Secondly, in some areas where it is no longer common, the reasons for teenage marriage have altered dramatically, with important implications for the welfare of those concerned.

This paper first traces the trends in teenage marriage, arguing that data sources on which such trends are based need to be carefully examined to avoid biased estimates. It then examines the changing context in which such marriages take place, and the changing reasons for teenage marriage. The welfare implications of the historical patterns of teenage marriage, and of current patterns, are then discussed.