

Faith-based Development: The Participation of Christian-based Organizations in the Development in Indonesia

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Abstract

Poverty is one of the major problems in Indonesia, especially after the economic crisis in late 1997, which was followed by the political crisis in mid 1998, that forced Soeharto to step down. When Soeharto's regime, the New Order, was in power, Indonesian economy performed very well that it was considered as being able to alleviate the poverty. But the priority given to the economic growth was at the expense of other things such as human rights. This resulted in a shaky economic foundation, which was proven to be true in 1998 when Indonesian economy melted down. As a result, poverty went back to Indonesia. Some people even said that it was even worse than before. In this situation, faith-based organizations had to rethink its paradigm in participating in the development in Indonesia. The previous participation, charitable work, is no longer enough in solving the social and political problems, which were the root of the injustice and poverty. In this paper I will investigate how Christian-based organizations participate in the development in Indonesia. My findings show that they still do the charitable work and community outreach programs, but it also participates in transformative actions, such as advocacy program for the poor. By so doing, they give social access to the poor, and thus participate in the development in its true sense.