

## **ABSTRACT**

*Female labor force participation (FLFP) is an important indicator for assessing the dynamics of economic development and gender equality, especially in developing countries. In Indonesia, the participation rate of women in the labor force tends to be lower compared to men. One of the main factors suspected to influence women's decisions to work is the number of children they have. This study aims to examine the impact of fertility on mothers' labor force participation using data from the 2017 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) with a probit model approach.*

*To address potential endogeneity, this study also employs an instrumental variable (IV) probit method using two instruments: the gender composition of the first two children and infertility shock. The estimation is limited to a sample of women who have at least two children, controlling for various individual and household characteristics. The results indicate that the number of children significantly reduces the probability of mothers participating in the labor force in Indonesia. Based on Average Marginal Effect (AME) estimates, each additional child for mothers with at least two children decreases the probability of working by 22.2%. This effect is consistent with empirical evidence from other countries showing that additional childcare responsibilities hinder mothers' labor force participation.*

*This study contributes empirical evidence using the latest IDHS data to better understand the relationship between fertility and mothers' labor force participation in Indonesia. The findings underscore the importance of child care support policies and flexible work arrangements to encourage higher participation of mothers in the labor market.*

**Keywords:** *Mothers' Labor Force Participation, Fertility, Number of Children, Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey, Instrumental Variable.*