

# **Women and Warung in an Urban Kampung**

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*To Aldi, Yayan, my mother, and to  
the loving memory of my father.*

This work is the result of original research carried out by the author, except where otherwise stated in the text.

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## Abstract

This thesis is a study of women, *warung* (small shops) and Cicadas *kampung* community of Bandung, West Java. Data on *warung*, women, and the Cicadas *kampung* is based on 12 months fieldwork in 2002. To collect the data, a combination of in-depth interviews, observation and participant observation were adopted. In this research I explore the *warung* issue from the perspective of *warung* owners and other members of the *kampung*.

From the owners' point of view the main reason to establish *warung* is to extend the limited income produced by their family members to make ends meet. Other reasons are the possibility to combine income earning activities with domestic chores and social prestige. Having a *warung* gives more social prestige to a woman *warung* owner than being a domestic helper. On the other hand, having a job in the formal sector is considered better than conducting a *warung* business.

From the *kampung* residents' point of view, the reasons to shop at *warung* are mainly related to certain services offered by *warung* which are not available in other trading sectors. *Warung* offer small quantities of goods and credit. These services match the socioeconomic condition of the people, who are mostly low income. For the poor, *warung* indeed 'support' them by providing these affordable services which are in accord with their purchasing power. Moreover shopping at *warung* enables the people to save, especially when buying cooked food. For *kampung* people, cooking may lead to a higher cost. Proximity is another reason people shop at *warung*—which could be as close as next door—and this saves them transportation costs.

*Warung* are also a social centre where people interact and discuss community affairs. Buying snacks (*jajan*) and credit (*nganjuk*) are important practices which mark the relationship between *warung* owners and their customers. These practices are less likely to characterize other trading sectors.

More women than men run *warung* because having a *warung* enables women to combine reproductive and productive work, though this leads to the women

working extremely long hours—up to 16 hours a day—to perform both tasks. Warung can also be seen as an extension of women’s domestic responsibilities, by reinvesting money and providing meals for their family.



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## Preface

The Indonesian currency is the *Rupiah*. During my field work in 2002 the rate of exchange of the *Rupiah* with the Australian dollar was Rp 5,000 -5,500 for A\$1. When I finished my study in late 2006 the rate was Rp 6,500-7,500.

When I conducted my field work, lower-medium quality rice sold at Cicadas' *warung* was Rp 2,000-2,500 per kg, equal to approximately A\$0.40-0.50, based on the rate of exchange in 2002.

To protect the identity of informants, all names mentioned in this thesis are pseudonyms.

I present the data in the present tense wherever possible, although the thesis refers to the situation in 2002. Where statistical data are presented from 2001/2002 or where the actual time is mentioned I use past tense.

Indonesian and the few Sundanese words used in the thesis have the same form for singular and plural. I have not anglicized the words by adding 's' for plural.

I italicize all non English words except for five Indonesian words; *warung*, *jajan*, *kampung*, *kota*, *kumuh*, and a Sundanese word; *nganjuk*. These words are italicized only in the abstract, preface, and when they are first mentioned in the chapters, because they appear very often in nearly all chapters. The words *ibu* and *bapak*—although not English words—are not italicized either. These are used as forms of address for adult women (*ibu*) and adult men (*bapak*), and in most cases are not separated from the names of the women and men who are mentioned in this thesis. I use underlining throughout the thesis to indicate emphasis.

## Abbreviations

Only the more important abbreviations used in the text are listed.

Angkot	<i>Angkutan kota</i> , a small van which can accommodate up to 10-15 people, widely used in Bandung for urban transportation
BIGS	<i>Bandung Institute of Governance Studies</i>
BKKBN	<i>Badan Koordinasi Keluarga Berencana Nasional</i> , National Family Planning Board
BNI	<i>Bank Negara Indonesia</i> , Indonesian State Bank
Comro	<i>Oncom di jero</i> , literally <i>oncom</i> inside, fried snacks made from a dough of fermented beans ( <i>oncom</i> ) and chilli, covered with mashed cassava
KS	<i>Keluarga sejahtera</i> , prosperous family. A categorization of a family's socioeconomic level used by the National Family Planning Board. The levels are pra KS, KS 1, KS 2, KS 3 to rank from the poorest to the richest
Kukesra	<i>Kredit usaha keluarga sejahtera</i> , family welfare credit
Posyandu	<i>Pos Pelayanan Terpadu</i> , integrated mother and child health post, organized by the local community and normally held every month
PDAM	<i>Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum</i> , regional water company
PKK	<i>Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga</i> , family welfare empowerment program. Formerly PKK stood for <i>Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga</i> , family welfare development program
PLKB	<i>Penyuluh Lapangan Keluarga Berencana</i> , field proselytiser of family planning program. PLKB is an official at a village ( <i>kelurahan</i> ) office who is assigned

	the task to campaign and to publicise the family planning program to village residents
Pos KB	<i>Pos Keluarga Berencana</i> , a volunteer—normally a woman—whose task is to campaign and to publicise the family planning program in her neighbourhood ward (RW). She is also responsible for running the monthly Posyandu meetings in her RW
Pra KS	<i>Pra keluarga sejahtera</i> , pre-prosperous family. A categorization of a family's socioeconomic level by the National Family Planning Board. The levels are are pra KS, KS 1, KS 2, KS 3 to rank from the poorest to the richest
PT. Pos Indonesia	<i>Perseroan Terbatas Pos Indonesia</i> , Indonesian Post Pty.
Puskesmas	<i>Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat</i> , public health centre
Raskin	<i>Beras untuk orang miskin</i> , rice for the poor program of the National Family Planning Board
RT	<i>Rukun Tetangga</i> , sub-neighbourhood ward, consisting of approximately 10-15 households
RW	<i>Rukun Warga</i> , neighbourhood ward, consisting of approximately 10-15 RT
Satpam	<i>Satuan Pengamanan</i> , security officer
Sub Pos KB	<i>Sub Pos Keluarga Berencana</i> , a volunteer—normally a woman—whose task is to campaign and to publicize family planning program in her sub-neighbourhood ward (RT)
Takesra	<i>Tabungan kesejahteraan keluarga</i> , welfare family saving program of the National Family Planning Board

## Glossary

Only the more important terms appearing in the text are listed. Terms followed by (S) are Sundanese, (A) are Arabic, the rest are either Indonesian or both Indonesian and Sundanese.

Azan or adzan	Call for ritual prayers for muslims
Arisan	Rotating credit association
Ashar	Afternoon muslim prayer, normally performed at any time between 3-5 pm
Bala-bala	Fried snack made of sliced vegetables, usually cabbage, bean sprout, and carrot, mixed with flour and water
Bapak	Literally meaning father. It is also a form of address for adult men, regardless of whether or not they have children
Barang-barang kelontong	Non-perishable goods, soft goods, small wares, durable goods normally sold at warung
Becak	Three wheeled pedicab
Bubur	Cereal. <i>Bubur ayam</i> (chicken-rice cereal), <i>bubur manis</i> (sweet cereal), <i>bubur kacang hijau</i> (mung bean cereal), <i>bubur sumbum</i> (rice flour cereal served with coconut milk and coconut sugar)
Cicilan	Instalment
Dzuhur	Midday muslim prayer, normally performed at any time between 12-3 pm
Ibu	Literally meaning mother. It is also a form of address for adult women regardless of whether or not they have children
Idul Fitri	Celebration of the end of Ramadhan fasting month, also known as Lebaran
Jajan	Snack, to snack (Stevens and Schmidgall-Tellings, 2004:403). Buy snacks [at a street vendor, warung,



	etc], snacks [bought on the streets, etc] (Hardjadibrata, 2003:342). Also known as <i>jajanan</i> (snacks)
Jamu	Traditional medicine (Stevens and Schmidgall-Tellings, 2004:408)
Jamu gendong	Traditional medicine sold by an itinerant seller who carries them in a basket on her back (Stevens and Schmidgall-Tellings, 2004:408)
Kabupaten	District, regency
Kampung	Urban village
Kecamatan	Sub-district
Kelurahan	Village
Kota	City
Kotamadya	Municipality
Kumuh	Slum
Lebaran	Celebration of the end of Ramadhan fasting month, also known as Idul Fitri
Lillahi Ta'ala (A)	For the sake of God (Allah)
Magrib	Evening. Also means evening muslim prayer, normally performed at any time between 6-7 pm
Nganjuk (S)	Buy or get something on credit, borrow money from someone, sell or give something on credit (Hardjadibrata, 2003:30-31), from the root word <i>anjuk</i>
Ngebon (S)	Buying something on credit, put something on one's personal account (Hardjadibrata, 2003:116-117), from the root word <i>bon</i> . Also <i>ngabon</i>
Ngutang	To be in debt, get into debt (Stevens and Schmidgall-Tellings, 2004:1081), from the root word <i>utang</i>
Pengajian	Qur'an recital, Islamic lecture
Rumah Petak	A house which has only one multi purpose room, with only the base walls made of brick, extended to

	the roof line with bamboo, wood or even cardboard, with a cement or earthen floor. The roof is made from wood, old iron sheets, or old roof tiles. The house size is between 4-12 m <sup>2</sup>
Sholat or shalat	The ritual prayer prescribed by Islam to be recited five times a day at stipulated times and in a stipulated way using Arabic phrases (Stevens and Schmidgall-Tellings, 2004:861), under the word <i>shalat</i>
Subuh	Dawn. Also meaning dawn muslim prayer ( <i>sholat subuh</i> ), normally performed at any time between 4.30-6 am
Tempe	Soy bean cake
Toko	Shop
Tukang kredit	People who buy goods to re-sell to others on credit, charging interest based on the credit period. In Cicadas, the goods vary from clothes, kitchen utensils, to electronic goods
Warung	Small shop