ABSTRACT

Cognitive Disability among Older Adults in Indonesia: Urban-Rural Differences and Associated Factors, 2023 Susenas

Mugia Bayu Rahardja, Sutanto Priyo Hastono, Yanu Endar Prasetyo

Correspondence E-mail : raharja82@gmail.com

Background : Population ageing in Indonesia raises the need for evidence on cognitive disability among older adults, but urban–rural differences remain poorly described.

Objective : To estimate the prevalence of cognitive disability among older Indonesians by area of residence, decompose the urban–rural gap, and compare associated factors across areas.

Research Methods/ Implementation Methods : We analysed the 2023 National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas) for 129,234 people aged 60 years and older. Cognitive disability combined two Washington Group Short Set items on remembering and communicating. We decomposed the rural–urban prevalence difference with Kitagawa's method, fitted separate logistic regressions by area, and tested differences between area-specific coefficients.

Results : Prevalence was 12.62% nationally (urban 12.02%; rural 13.36%). The 1.34-point gap reflected opposing forces: lower education and more difficulty seeing and hearing among rural older adults widened it, while their higher employment narrowed it. Among those not working, prevalence was 5.65 points higher in rural areas; no gap appeared at 80+. The age gradient was steeper in urban areas (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] for 80+ versus 60–64: 2.48 versus 1.90), whereas being married rather than never married was more strongly associated with lower odds in rural areas (AOR 0.33 versus 0.54). Associations with sex, employment, and household expenditure did not differ by area.

Conclusion/Lesson Learned : The small urban–rural gap results from offsetting composition effects, and its correlates differ by area. Services should prioritise rural older adults who are not working or lack a partner and pair cognitive screening with hearing and vision assessment.

Keyword : cognitive disability; older adults; urban–rural differences; Kitagawa decomposition; Indonesia