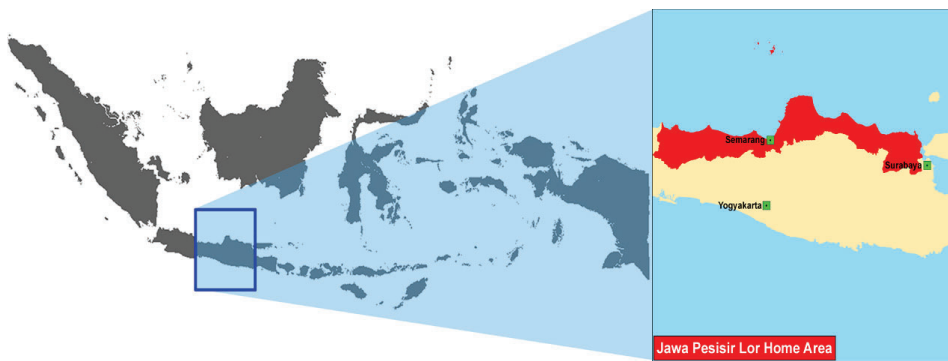


JAWA PESISIR LOR



Demography	Jawa Language	Status
Loc: East & Central Java Population: 36.000.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: Yes (Kromo)	Believers: <4.200 Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: Some

Identity and Location

Geographically, there are two groups of Jawa Pesisir Lor people. The first group lives west of the city of Semarang, centered in the Pekalongan–Tegal area. Their homeland is on the northern slope of the Slemet-Dieng Mountains, along the Java Sea from Kendal to Brebes. The second group lives east of Semarang, centered in the Demak–Kudus area. Their homeland is on the slope of the Kapur Utara Mountains, from Demak to Tuban. Most of the Jawa people who live in Semarang, however, are from other groups that have moved in from other areas such as Negarigung, Banyumasan, or Mancanegari.

Society and Culture

The majority of the Jawa Pesisir Lor people are farmers, making good use of their land by utilizing modern tools and equipment. The industrial sector is growing with both heavy and light industry experiencing rapid growth. Jawa people, in general, are well-known for being quiet and polite and the Jawa Pesisir Lor people reflect this trait, though they are somewhat more open, direct, and spontaneous than other Jawa people. They will share their opinion even if it differs from that of their elders and will speak directly, even about sensitive issues; expressing themselves not only with words but also by their emotions and actions.

Many Jawa Pesisir Lor people consider traditional Jawa culture and traditions to be obsolete and are proud to have a more modern outlook on the world. They tend to be disciplined and devout Muslims. Unlike other Jawa people, they like Islamic musical forms more than the traditional Jawa gamelan music and would rather read the Al-Qur'an than watch the traditional Jawa wayang (a traditional form of storytelling using lights and puppets). However they still enjoy some other forms of traditional theater: ludruk and ketoprak.

Most Jawa Pesisir Lor people earn their living through farming, though some work in factories in Semarang, Ungaran, and Demak. A few also earn their living in the fishing industry.

Beliefs

The district of Demak was the most important area of Indonesia, in the spread of Islam during the era of the Jaman Raden Patah Kingdom (1478) and eventually to Central and East Java during the reign of the Tenggana Kingdom. Almost all Pesisir Lor people profess Sunni Islam, but some are Sufi Muslims. They consider the graves of two historic religious leaders, Sunan Kalijaga and Sunan Ja'far Shodiq, to be places of power. Many people go to these graves for pilgrimages and to seek blessings.

Most orthodox Jawa seek to practice the nine guidelines to religious knowledge laid down by these two leaders, who brought Islam to the north coast of Java. The first guideline is the five pillars of Islam (confession of faith, ritual prayer five times daily, annual alms, the month of fasting, and pilgrimage to Mecca). The next four guidelines are Islamic law, reality, mysticism, and wisdom. In spite of this, occultism is still practiced, along with syncretism with Hindism and animism. They still believe in evil spirits that roam freely and can harass humans.

Needs

The Pesisir Lor people need more dams and better irrigation, to increase their harvests to more than two or three times per year. More job opportunities are needed, to keep up with the growing population and the large number of young people moving to other areas to look for work.