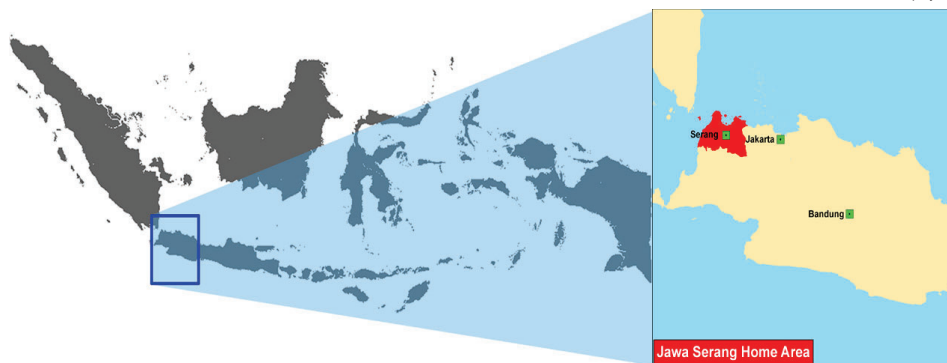


JAWA SERANG

Map by RD



Demography	Jawa Language	Status
Location: Banten	Bible: Yes	Believers: <700
Population: 550.000	Jesus Film: Yes	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Jawa Serang people live on the island of Java in Serang Regency and Serang City in the Province of Banten. Because of this they are called the Jawa Serang or Jaseng people. The Jawa Serang arrived in this area roughly 1525-1526 A.D., when the army of the Kingdom of Demak (an Islamic kingdom centered on the north coast of Java) moved out from Demak along the coast as far as the Sunda Strait under the commander Fatahillah. The army occupied all the area along this route, bringing them under the rule of the Kingdom of Demak. However, the Kingdom of Demak subsequently collapsed and Fatahillah established the kingdoms of Banten and Cirebon. In 1526, the Kingdom of Banten was established and a group of soldiers from Demak stayed in Banten and founded the Banten Jawa community. These new settlers married the original inhabitants of Banten, and this mixture resulted in the development of the unique language of the Jawa Serang people.

The Jawa Serang people are also known as “Banten people,” even though they are different from the original Banten people and have their own distinct Serang dialect of the Jawa language. From a linguistic point of view, their dialect is clearly a variation of Jawa, but with many differences in vocabulary. For example, the Jawa Serang language uses the letter “e” in many ways not common on Java and many words have been combined with the Sunda language. It takes time for other Jawa people to adapt, understand, and actively communicate with Jawa Serang people.

Society and Culture

The Jawa Serang have two main sources of income: farming and commerce. Rice is an important commodity in their communities and the province

of Banten (along with West Java) is well known as one of the major rice-producing areas of Indonesia. The Jawa Serang also engage in many commercial activities. Serang Regency and Serang City are quite densely populated. So, as with the Banten people, Jawa Serang people tend to migrate to other areas, particularly Lampung (Sumatra), to search for work.

Ironically, although the Jawa Serang people live in an industrialized area, more than 50% of the population live below the poverty line. Per capita income in the area is quite high, but there is a wide gap between the rich and poor. This represents a dangerous social situation, which causes resentment between social classes and increased crime rates.

Beliefs

The majority of the Jawa Serang people are adherents of Islam. However, they still possess knowledge of black magic, which is commonly used in daily life. Many people from outside the area also come to Banten asking for assistance in the form of black magic. In addition, the grave of Sultan Hasanudin, as well as several other graves, represent important shrines for the community.

Needs

The Jawa Serang people, especially the poor among them, need assistance in increasing the standard of living and level of economic development in their area. Particularly, assistance for poverty alleviation needs to be directed toward those who truly need it so that the poor who receive such help can be reached with maximum impact.^(RD)