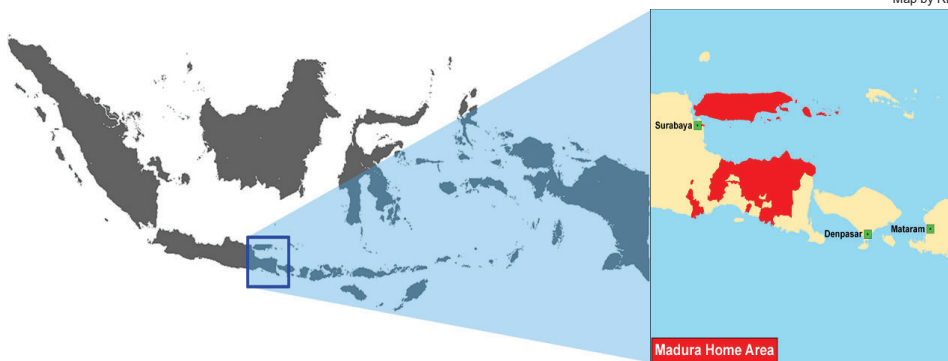


MADURA



Demography	Madura Language	Status
Location: East Java Population: 7.700.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: Yes	Believers: <1.000 Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 2

Identity and Location

The Madura people are the third largest people group in Indonesia, making up seven percent of Indonesia's total population. About four million Madura people still live on the island of Madura, and three million in the eastern part of the island of Java. Other major pockets of Madura people can be found in Jakarta, Kalimantan, and Sulawesi. The Madura people are renowned for their harsh character and lifestyles. This might be caused by their natural surroundings and their history of oppression by others, both of which have made life very difficult for them. Nevertheless they work extremely hard and refuse to give up. Neither men nor women shrink from hard work. The Madura have their own language with several dialects. The Bangkalan dialect is spoken in the regencies of Bangkalan and Sampang. The Pamekasan dialect is used in the southern portion of Pamekasan Regency and in the central part of Madura Island. The Sumenep dialect is found in Sumenep Regency, and the Girpapas and Kangean dialects are spoken by smaller populations of Madura people.

Society and Culture

The majority of Madura living on the island reside in farming communities but very few of them gain their income only from farming. The climate is very dry and the land is not very fertile and thus yields only two harvests of rice and tobacco each year. Many Madura are fishermen, salt farmers and sailors on inter-island cargo ships. The Madura who live on Java generally do not own land, but become fishermen, sailors, bicycle-taxi drivers, and unskilled laborers. The Madura are also known across Indonesia for their sate (skewered meat kebabs) and soto (meat soup).

According to tradition, the first step in the Madura marriage process is for a parent to seek a suitable young lady for one's son (nyalabar). The next step involves

contacting the lady's family (narabas pagar). If well received, the proposal leads to engagement. Among the Madura people, the family does not merely include close relatives (brothers, sisters and parents) but also includes cousins and distant relatives (having different grandparents). This extended family is called pon popon gik semak, meaning that even distant relatives are considered close family.



Photo by RD - Becek Madura

One unique activity common among the Madura is bull racing (karapan sapi). A pair of bulls run pull a cart with no wheels, on which a jockey stands, driving the bulls. The race track is usually about 100 meters and lasts about 10-15 seconds per race. Several cities in Madura have bull races each year. Before the race, the bulls are paraded around the arena, accompanied by the music of Madurese gamelan, called karonen.

Beliefs

Most Madura people are very devout Sunni Muslims. Nevertheless many seek security by using mantras and magic spells in an attempt to control both good and evil spirits. Those who have fulfilled all five pillars of Islam by making the pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj) have a special place of honor in the eyes of the Madura.

Needs

In general, the income of the Madura is very low. Health services, better nutrition and education (especially practical skills) are urgent needs among the Madura, so they can participate in economic growth and widening of industry, especially on Madura Island.

(E-RD)