

Position Title: Indonesia Representative for Youth Advisory Board

Terms of Position: Part-time (up to 15 hours a month); 12 months

Number of Positions Available: 2 (we aim to appoint one male and one female candidate)

Location: Remote

Reporting to: Consortium Project Manager

Adolescents' social media usage (SMU) has increased significantly worldwide. In North America, 24% of teenagers reported being online “almost constantly” in 2015 (Lenhart, 2015), rising to 36% by 2022 (Vogels et al., 2022). This permanently online, permanently connected (PO/PC) pattern of SMU (Vorderer et al., 2018), driven largely by smartphone accessibility (Kardos et al., 2018), is also evident in the Global South (Deloitte, 2020).

Existing studies from the Global South have demonstrated the potential of SMU to enhance various dimensions of well-being, from facilitating mental health promotion to providing a “digital safe haven” for marginalized groups (Ghai et al., 2022). Recent work also suggests that the impact of SMU—whether beneficial or harmful—largely depends on how it is used (Ghai et al., 2022; Kross et al., 2021; Mahali et al., 2018), highlighting the importance of self-regulation in SMU (e.g., Bayer et al., 2022). However, research examining the effects of SMU on well-being in Global South contexts, as well as research focusing on self-regulation in SMU, remains significantly underrepresented (Ghai et al., 2023; Mahali et al., 2018; Schønning et al., 2020).

The SMERU Research Institute (SMERU), in consortium with Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia (Unika Atma Jaya), London School of Economics, the University of Amsterdam, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, is implementing adolescent-centered mixed-method research to explore the potential of SMU to enhance relational well-being in Global South settings through a research project entitled “Social Media Use and Relational Well-being in the Global South”. The project is funded by the National Research Foundation South Africa and Fondation Botnar. The project is expected to produce a practical approach and booklet to promote healthy social media use among adolescents through self-regulation.

To ensure that our research truly reflects adolescents' lived experiences, we believe youth must be integrated as partners throughout our project cycle. Therefore, a central pillar of this commitment is the establishment of a Youth Advisory Board (YAB). This paid position within the project structure will consist of eight adolescents (aged 14–18) from Indonesia, India, Vietnam, and South Africa, who will serve as an internal mechanism for co-production throughout the study. Each country will be represented by two adolescents—one female and one male. As Indonesian representatives of the YAB, the selected Indonesian adolescents would provide nuanced Indonesians' youth context into the research design, process, and output.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Provide feedback on the clarity, relevance, and cultural appropriateness of research instruments (e.g., surveys, interview guides, module prototypes)

2. Identify potential risks or ethical concerns from an adolescent perspective (e.g., privacy, emotional triggers, sensitive questions)
3. Support the refinement of study procedures, including communication materials and participant engagement methods
4. Validate findings by confirming whether initial insights are relevant and appropriately nuanced for adolescents in their contexts
5. Contribute to the design of youth-friendly dissemination strategies, including recommendations for visuals, formats, and/or platforms
6. Participate in capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing their role as research advisors.

Benefits for Members of Youth Advisory Board

Members will gain first-hand experience in designing, implementing, and communicating a cross-country research project. Their involvement is designed to bridge the gap between academic research and the lived experiences of young people, providing members with the following professional and personal benefits:

1. Research Mastery & Critical Thinking
 - *Foundational Research Skills*: Learn how to define research objectives, select appropriate methodologies, and ensure data integrity.
 - *Data Literacy & Analysis*: Gain the ability to interpret complex data sets and translate them into meaningful insights (Data Visualization and Research Literacy).
 - *Strategic Design*: Learn to identify "blind spots" or unintended consequences in project designs—a skill highly valued in project management and social entrepreneurship.
2. Strategic Communication & Writing
 - *Bilingual Proficiency*: Practice professional communication and academic discussion in both Indonesian and English.
 - *Public Writing (Popular Science)*: Receive training on how to write articles for popular platforms and translate data into stories.
 - *Creative Dissemination*: Develop skills in digital storytelling, including creating youth-friendly social media content, visuals, and summaries that resonate with your peers.
3. Public Speaking & Negotiation
 - *Negotiation & Persuasion*: Learn how to present youth perspectives to senior researchers and stakeholders in a way that influences final decisions.
 - *Public Communication*: Build confidence in presenting findings during webinars, workshops, and consortium meetings.
4. Global Networking & Mentorship

- *International Exchange*: Engage in cross-cultural discussions with youth from other countries, broadening perspectives on global adolescent issues.
- *Professional Mentorship*: Work directly with experts from the research consortium, gaining first-hand insight into careers in academia, NGOs, and international development.

Members will also receive monthly monetary compensation for their contributions.

Desired Qualifications:

Each country will be represented by two adolescents—one male and one female.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Indonesian citizen
- Aged 14–18 years old
- Fluent in English, both spoken and written
- Strong interest in youth social development issues, particularly on welfare and digital inequity
- Demonstrated interest in advocating for adolescent well-being
- Tech savvy (familiarity in social media platforms, Microsoft Office Suite, and Canva)

To assess these criteria, SMERU and Unika Atma Jaya will conduct an open recruitment process followed by a two-stage selection: administrative screening and an interview.

During the administrative screening stage, applicants will be asked to complete an online form and submit a 2–3-minute video in English introducing themselves and discussing a youth issue they are interested in. Candidates who pass the administrative stage will be invited to an online interview. During this stage, the selection team will explore the candidates' perspectives on youth and digitalization issues, as well as their interest in research.

Interested applicants can submit their applications through the following link:

<https://recruitment.smeru.or.id/youth-delegate>

Applications close on Monday, 06 April 2026 23:59 WIB (GMT+7). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. No communications regarding this recruitment outside the process outlined above will be accepted.

SMERU applies equal opportunity principles in its recruitment process and follows child protection policies across all institutional activities and staff. We offer attractive compensation, equal learning opportunities, and a safe environment for all.

Estimated Timeline:

- Application deadline: 6 April 2026
- Announcement of shortlisted candidates: 10 April 2026

- Online Interviews: 14-16 April 2026
- Final announcement: 20 April 2026
- Expected start date: End of April 2026