

Migration Pattern of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Sambas Border Area of West Kalimantan Indonesia

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine the description of migration pattern of Indonesian migrant workers in Sambas district which is conterminous with Malaysia region. Quantitative and qualitative method were used to collect the data by using survey for quantitative purposes and interview (focus group discussion) for qualitative purposes. The study found that Brunei and Malaysia are the migration destinations by people in Sambas, but compared to Brunei, their main destination is Malaysia. Working as domestic sectors. These migrant workers were motivated by their own preferences (88%) to work abroad. The degree of knowledge level on worker's recruitment into and out of the country is still low. Mostly, respondents reported that they have family members which is also working abroad, however, significant numbers of them have few knowledge on requirements and procedure to working abroad. The result shows that most of migration done by family members were not following legal procedures due to the lack of knowledge of requirement and procedure to working abroad. Migration patterns of people in Sambas reported that prospective workers mostly recruited by illegal recruiters, only 26% leaving independently, 25% by friends, and 12% by their own family members. Most of the workers using their salary to meet daily needs to help family such as parent's and children's need, medication, and shopping. They tend to send their salary alone rather than send it by bank. Most of them also did not signing working contract, and did not know for their working schedule to start. They also did not understand yet for the place where they should to report if they faced any problems. They do not know Indonesia diplomatic representative office address, agency address, or other place to report or asking for help. Meanwhile, the problems of migrants are more to the absence of briefing before they are leaving abroad.

Key word: Migration Pattern, Migrant Workers, Border Area, Sambas West Kalimantan

Background

Border area is the most location in which worker's migration happen frequently, especially for the border area which has economic discrepancy such as the border area of Indonesia – Malaysia. Sambas is one of district in West Kalimantan which is conterminous directly with Malaysia, in this area people migration especially for worker's migration has been going for a long time, since Sabah – Serawak are located in the same island and accessible by landline. The ease of access is used by people in Sambas district to work in Malaysia, especially in Sabah and Serawak. According to Indonesian Task Force on Combating Trafficking, in Kalimantan, Indonesia's border

area with Sarawak and Sabah states are the gateway for a better livelihood. With the income of people in Kuching reaching US\$8500 per capita/year, this is a strong attraction for people in West Kalimantan to find a job legally as well as illegally.

According to Martin (2003) migration is the population movement from a region to another due to difference conditions of both regions. Migration according to Goldin (2011) defined as a cross-border movement, and view as something decreasing the expenses and provide a lot of chance. According to Cohen & Lemma (2011) migration have to understand as a part event which happen in the border area as a social transformation process, enhancement due to major changes in global order, politic, economic and social.

The biggest difference encourage migration is economic and non – economic conditions. According to Tjiptoherijanto (2000) the aim of migration is to increase standard of living and the family, therefore most of them looking for a job that can give them income and also higher social status in their destination country. Based on *neoclassical economics* theory (In Arifin, 2011) macro migration and micro migration more emphasis in wages and working conditions between regions or countries, cost, and individual decision to migrate. According to this theory, people movement is a personal decision based on their own desire to achieve maximum welfare.

While Osaki (2003) stated that the migration happens due to the intrinsic labor demand in industrial modern citizen. This statement is used to analyze individual desire to migrate and called as dual labor market theory. According to this theory, migration happens due to the labor demand on a specific area or developed country. Therefore, migrations are not happen due the push factors in the origin area but also there is pull factors from the destination area.

New economics of migration theory suggest that people are not always associated with labor market, but also with their environment decision, especially family. It is different with individual decision, family decision considered as more cope with the household problems when people do migration, by diversification allocation of funds they have, such as allocation of family labor force. Some of family members stay in their origin, while others working abroad. This kind of allocation made to decrease risk of failure which is cause by migration. Based on explanation above we concluded that worker's migration is a movement of workers from an area to a better area, planned to increasing welfare, and quality of live.

According to International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2010), migration to Malaysia can be viewed as a structural phenomenon which driven by economic condition and unbalanced demographic between both countries. Border area is an important region for a Country, especially a border area which is conterminous with neighbor country such as Malaysia. Malaysia is the main destination country of Indonesian migrant workers, since Malaysia close to Indonesia, and similarity in culture, and also there are more opportunities to work. To find out how the migration of migrant workers in Sambas, West Kalimantan happen and describe its pattern, it is important to do research about Migration Pattern of Indonesian migrant workers in Sambas Border Area of West Kalimantan.

Workers Migration Theory

According to Lee (1966) there are four factors causing people taking decision to migrate: factor that comes from origin area, factors that comes from destination area, obstacles, and individual factors. Todaro (1998) state that migration is a very selective process influencing every individual by economic, social, education, and certain demographic characters, this influence towards economic factors and non- economic factors as vary on every individual. These variations are not only happening in migration stream across region but also across countries.

Based on study done by Arifin (2011) had been found that permanent migration pattern is the most favorable by people in border area are through marriage and birth, otherwise by kinship and working. People in border area are motivated by economic factor and for their future.

Some of non – economic factors that influencing individual decisions to migrate are: 1. Social factors, such as individual desire to detach their traditional obstacles in their society which considered as a curb. 2. Physical factors, such as climate, and meteorological disasters, like floods and dry season. 3. Demographic factors, including decreasing of mortality which accelerates population growth. 4. Cultural factors, including to sustain family relationship in destination country. 5. Communication factors including transportation facilities, education system, mass media or electronic media.

According to Black (2011) social factors in migration consist of culture expectation and family even their offspring, all of these factors due to better education opportunities. Tacoli (2009) states that in some culture, migration viewed as the key of social and cultural development, and to promote their culture and values outside the world.

Theory derived from economic – demographic perspective is Segmented Labor Market theory. According to this theory, migration stream from one country determined by higher demand factor of labor market in other country. In this theory, the pull factor towards migration stream more dominating compared to other push factor in origin country. However, this theory has a little explanation in micro factors, how finally individual decide to move or stay at their origin.

The change of migration transition of people in an area has a reciprocal effect on people economic in an area to meet their needs. People in that area easily move anytime they want when they feel the push factors are bigger, since there is little job opportunities and rare nature resources. Otherwise for the same reason, people in other area can enter those areas.

METHODOLOGY

This research used quantitative and qualitative approach, quantitative approach used to gain general data of people knowledge (content and goals of campaign) campaign objective group. Population in this research is head of family or backbone of family from productive age of family members. Sample was collected form the data of vulnerable members in household. Family members which are the main respondent is the head of family. Total of respondents are 150 per district by using purposive sampling, in which respondent is chosen by certain criteria that fit to study objective. Questioner is used to collecting data with open ended question.

Qualitative approach was used to examine Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of subject. Data collected by using focus group discussion (FGD) and in-depth interview, FGD was

done with 10 participants. In-depth interview was done with headman and public figure. This study held in Kecamatan Sajad (village tengguli, Jirak), Kecamatan Sejangkung (village sulung, perigi landu, kertiasa) of Sambas district (West Kalimantan).

Findings and Results

In this survey the total respondents are 150 people, each consists of 28 people (18.7%) of respondents from Peringgi Landu Village, 10 people (6.7%) of Sulung Village, 60 people (40%) from Jirak Village, and 50 people (33.3%) from Tengguli Village and 2 (1.3%) from Kartiasa Village. Respondents consisted of 95 people (63.3%) women, and 55 (36.7%) men, with average age of respondents are 47 years old. From 150 respondents, a total of 65.3% did not finish elementary school, 20% completed elementary school, 8% have educational background on junior high school and 9.3% high school graduates, and there are no college graduates.

Workers Migration Pattern

From 150 respondents, 145 people (96.7%) reported that there are members of their families who have experience working abroad, both inside and outside the country, from interviews and FGD respondent report that there are 2 places of country which is Malaysia and Brunei, in which Malaysia as the main destination country. Working in domestic sector reported as the most offered job (23%), then agriculture (8%), factory workers (7%), service sector (shop / restaurant clerk sitter / etc) (6%), for construction 3%, and others 20%. In contrast to the local migration that many of respondent choose for office and service jobs

Their motivation to migrate either overseas or outside origin due to self-interest (88%), family desire (10%), friend invitations (15%), sponsors or agents (5%) and family invitations which already working abroad (10%). 7% of respondent reported driven by things other mention above, such as following her husband, looking for business/money, continuing school, buy a motorcycle, or help the family.

Respondents see many changes already happen with this migration. They report that 1) the village is getting quieter (53%), 2) more people have vehicle (43%), 3) more prosperous economic condition in their village (44%), 4) improvement in housing environment (33%) and 5) the more land and buildings managed by people from outside the villager (12%).

Knowledge about Legal and Safe Migration

The level of public knowledge about the recruitment of labor into and out of the country is still very low. The respondents' knowledge about domestic pattern of recruitment is 32% while abroad is 22%. This amount includes the knowledge of differentiating professional recruiters (agents, / or brokers / sponsors) or not.

In this survey, we use measurement scale to measure level of knowledge of respondents on recruitment pattern for working abroad (international migration). From 33 (22%) of respondents who have knowledge of recruitment patterns to working abroad, who are considered to possess

"excellent" knowledge of the requirement to become migrant workers only 7.3%. And 14% of respondents have "good" knowledge. Meanwhile, those who have knowledge "good enough" ranged 5.3%, and the rest 73.3% has not been socialized and do not understand at all about recruitment patterns, this must be have an impact on fraud that will be experienced by families who will do migration.

Most of respondents did not know the requirement, document, and process to working abroad. Most of respondents have family members which already working abroad, but most of them have a little understanding about working abroad requirement. This result shows that most of migrations done by family members of migrant workers are not passing through legal procedure due to the lack of knowledge of requirement processes.

Unlike the respondents' knowledge on documents required to become migrant workers, the majority of respondents (40%) of the respondents who have family members which already working abroad have excellent knowledge of the documents needed to become migrant workers. This difference is due to the making of documents especially passports are commonly done by people on the border like Sambas, so they are accustomed to have passports, and the documents they perceive are documents to make passports.

The result in this study shows for knowledge on the process of becoming a migrant workers or TKI majority of respondents (30%) who have family members which already working abroad also have a poor knowledge on the process to become legal and official workers, means that the majority of family members of respondents who working abroad may not passing through official channels as determined by the government so that many of them are not aware on the process of becoming an official migrant workers.

According to FGD result, respondent has positive assume on *domestic workers* and factory workers, palm oil plantation, workman, or other sectors, debriefing still needed. Means that they "should have skill on something even though they only graduate in junior high school.

International Migration Recruitment

The numbers of respondents or family members who have working abroad are 141 people. 33% said they were recruited by recruiters (brokers / sponsors), 26% who left independently, 25% by friends, and 12% of family members. This data is interesting since the percentage of recruited by recruiters (brokers/sponsors) and who left independently are not too significant. Based on FGD result we find different migration pattern to other region. On the other hand, there is high dependence of prospective workers on brokers (not PJTKI/PPTKIS or official agent). Most of respondent from FGD or *in-depth interview* report that brokers role is really important to manage their documents, travel schedule, job vacancy, and manage their departure since the beginning.

Otherwise, their habit with the presence of brokers which manage all of their need, respondent report that it does not mean that they are not realize if the man who they rely is illegal. On the other hand, most of respondents report that people in Sambas are not really need the presence of brokers. Going to neighbor country is a common thing for people in Sambas.

The role of a successful friend in another country (Malaysia) and inviting other residents to follow his path seems to indicate the position of the broker / recruiter / sponsor is not very significant. Thus, in conclusion, there are three common patterns of migrant workers from Sambas to migrate to Malaysia as following: through brokers, move independently, or with friends who have succeeded, or pretending to travel, this condition is vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation that will disadvantageous.

Preparation and requirement before going abroad

In this survey, 141 of respondents who have experience as migrant workers, 55% of respondents submitted documents in the form of ID cards, 95% of birth certificates, 89% SKKB, 62% yellow card from government, 84% letter of consent from parent / husband / wife, and 53% documents must be filled by private agencies (PPTKIS). And for medical check-up, the numbers of respondents who do it pretty much that is 99 or about 70.21%

Regarding the debriefing, the majority of respondent report that they were only less than 2 weeks training as prospective migrant workers (33%). Around 4% received 2 weeks to one-month training and only 2% had 1 to 2 months training. The rest did not respond this question because they did not know whether they need for a debriefing or not.

Communication pattern and family

Communication is one of the workers' rights that should have to be met. In this survey, the frequency and the ways used by migrators and their families both inside and outside the country are known. The communication frequency of migrant workers varies. There is once in a month (64%), more than once in a month (34%), two months (16%) and 21% others (twice a week, once in four months).

The way respondents communicate with their family members who work abroad often used telephone of their buddies (32%), use family friend phones (23%), through the workplace (3%), through representatives of RI government at work (3%) or others such as mail and / or mobile phone (37%).

Safest Way to Send Money and Management

From 41 respondents that working abroad, only 5% of respondents send money through bank transfers. They prefer to send it by postal money order (41%) or even take it home by their

self (68%) and deposited through individuals (27%). It seems that secure behavior in sending money has not entrenched yet on the respondents.

Based on the management of money from the work of domestic migrant workers the order of priority of respondents are: 1) to build or renovate the house 2) for school fees 3) to buy vehicles 4) for venture capital and pay the debt. The highest percentage of those who use money outside of it is 93%. They use it for everyday needs such as helping families, medication, shopping, parents' and children' needs.

Based on the management of money from the work of migrant workers who work abroad the order of priority of respondents are: 1) For school fees and building / renovating the house 2) to buy vehicles 3) to provide jewelry / gold 4) to repay debt and 5) for venture capital. The largest percentage is just for other things outside (52%) such as living expenses, daily shopping, marrying, buying land, saving, helping the family economy, or who have not produced at all.

The same pattern appears above. Priority of the respondent is more to the needs of daily living. It seems the respondent's problem is more on how it can survive from day to day. After that, the allocation of income is aimed at the cost of the school and building / renovating the house. Small allocation of funding is due to the cost of school and teachers getting sufficient subsidies.

Migrant Workers Track Record

Based on the result, the number of percentage of respondents who have working abroad knowing their destination country, types of job before they are leaving, and the amount of salary is higher. Meanwhile, still they have problem in debriefing before they are leaving (only 7% do debriefing). Most of them are not signing working contract yet, did not know their travel schedule. They also did not understand the address to report if the faced with problems. Respondents report that they do not know Indonesia diplomatic representative office address, agency address, or other places to report. Otherwise the domestic problems on migrant worker's behavior are there is no debriefing before they are leaving.

Conclusion and Suggestion

This study already shows that migrant pattern of people in Sambas district in west Kalimantan, most of migration done by using migration pattern by family members which already working abroad and by passing through illegal procedure that is why they do not know the requirement needed. Migration pattern of people in Sambas most of the prospective workers admit that they recruited by illegal recruiters (brokers/sponsor) and kinship (friends/family). This condition has big opportunities for people to get into trafficking and exploitation which is disadvantageous.

The motivation of people in Sambas to migrate is due to the better job opportunities in neighboring countries, the limited employment in Sambas and migration culture in the family. Most of respondents have family who already working as a migrant worker in Malaysia. Seeing neighbors and families working abroad, having good homes and luxury goods encourages young

people to migrate. The high gap in wages also makes job seekers want to working abroad for the family welfare. This is consistent with Martin's (2003) that migration is a movement of population from one region to another, due to differences in the conditions of the two regions.

This also consistent with research conducted by Arifin (2011) where the most preferable pattern of permanent migration by the most people in border areas is through marriage and birth, the rest through kinship and work (migrant workers). The motivation that drives the people in the border region to migrate due to economic factors and the future sustainability of their lives and their children.

Most of them use money for daily needs such as helping families, medication, shopping, parent needs and the needs of children. They prefer to send it by their own than by bank transfer. Most of them also did not sign a working contract, do not know the departure schedule. They also still do not really understand the address / place to report if there is a problem. Respondents did not know the address of the Indonesian diplomatic representative office, did not know the address of PJTKI, or other reporting place. Meanwhile the domestic problem on the migrant worker's behavior is more to the problem of not getting debriefing before leaving.

Respondents report that many changes that occur with this migration. They report that 1) the village is getting quieter (53%), 2) more people having vehicle (43%), 3) village economy getting more prosperous (44%), 4) the improvement in housing environment (33%) and 5) more land and buildings managed by people from outside the villagers (12%). This phenomenon shows that there are positive and negative impacts, positively there is economic development in village and district but the negative impact is that many villages are left due to migration therefore the existing development is limited to physical, the survival of the population is threatened because of the high number of migration that can result in the extinction of culture socio-cultural life of the community. This is in line with Tjiptoherijanto (2000) that the main purpose of migration is to improve the lives of migrants and their families, so they generally seek jobs that can provide higher income and social status in the destination country.

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