

## MIGRANT WORKERS (INDONESIAN WORKERS) IN MADURA

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**ABSTRACT:** *The purpose of this study was to find out what the motives of the people to become migrant workers. Finally, identifying the process of becoming a migrant worker. The method used in this study is interviews and literature studies. The informants of this research are people who have become migrant workers and will become migrant workers. Research location in Madura (enclave of Indonesian migrant workers). The results showed that the motivation to become TKI was due to economic factors, prestige factor like to make house and Haji. Besides that they want to develop talent. The countries with the most destinations are Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia The process of becoming a migrant worker is legal dan illegal. Usually, illegal process use the services of brokers. They don't want to register themselves. The reason is by using brokers the process is easier and faster. The departure process is legal and some are illegal.*

**KEYWORDS:** Migrant Workers, Madura, Process

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## INTRODUCTION

Based on the facts, the condition of Madura workers (migrant workers) is very concerning. The problematic Indonesian workforce in East Java in 2014 was dominated by Madurese with around 3,519 people (metrotvnews.com). Some of their destination countries included Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

According to East Java Disnakertransduk, four districts in Madura records are among the five regions with the highest level of problematic migrant workers in East Java (Data of East Java Disnakertransduk 2015). Throughout 2014, there were 7,493 illegal Indonesian migrant workers (BMI) from East Java, ranging from mild to severe legal violations. "Of that amount, around 70% percent are from Madura (Edi Purwinarto, 2015). These problematic migrant workers include Sampang, Pamekasan and Sumenep. There are 15.61 people in Sampang, 1129 in Pamekasan, Sumenep 829 Indonesian Migrant Workers (Head of East Java Provincial Education Office, 2015).

The majority of migrant workers consist of women, which is around 76%.

Some of the problems faced by Indonesian labor migrants include culture, language and communication, violence, rape, termination of unilateral contracts, wages low standards, overstay, pregnancy, childbearing and lesbian issues. This happened because the competence of Indonesian migrant workers from Madura was very bad.

This is because they are lack of knowledge, education and skills makes them face violence in the destination country. The level of education of migrant workers is also inadequate, because most of them graduated from elementary and junior high school graduates. As a result, many of them work in the informal sector, namely 89 percent work as domestic workers, 5.6 percent as caretakers, 2.9 percent as production operators, 1.48 percent working in restaurants, while the rest spread as construction, cleaning, tailor, and other laborers (D. Noeswantari, 2011).

## LITERATURE

In the Geerards study (2010), the number of complaints to Riyadh amounted to 3517 cases and there were 3446 cases that could be resolved. The case experienced by Indonesian migrant workers from Indonesia was in the form of violence in the household, ranging from verbal, psychological, economic to sexual violence. Since 2006, Samitra Abhaya, a pro-democracy women's group (SA-KPPD) Surabaya, has handled an average of 68 cases of trafficking of migrant workers per year. About 200 people are deported every week; mostly Madurese ((D. Noeswantari, 2011).)

This problematic condition of Indonesian labor migrants did not happen if prospective migrant workers, migrant workers and communities gain knowledge about the safe migration process. But the fact is ironic, migrant worker from Madura does not have knowledge about the safe migration process. This is because the have low level of education.

Furthermore, the access and control of Indonesian migrant workers is also low in the safe migration process. This is compounded by the number of *tekong* as intermediaries who take advantage of these migrant workers.

The placement stages for Indonesian migrant workers are have several processes. The first process is phase of pre-placement (prospective phase, recruitment and shelter). The information needed by prospective migrant workers is very rarely coming from PPTKIS or local labor services, mostly from friends, family, even brokers / brokers. (D. Noeswantari, 2011).

As a result, they get information that is less accurate so that they easily become victims of fraud. This shows the problem of legal and human rights literacy and the relations concerned in the family. In this phase, prospective migrant workers must live in shelters and pursue education.

This creates its own burden given that the majority of prospective migrant workers are women. In this phase there were also cases of illegal document (original but fake), incorrect work procedure information (false promises), trapped debt to moneylenders in order to depart, improper shelter, sexual harassment during medical check-ups and in shelters, as well as various levies wild (D. Noeswantari, 2011).

The second phases is phases of placement (departure, and work in the destination country). Based on several cases of trafficking, Indonesian labor migrants who have falsified their documents have to pay when they enter the shelter in the destination country. The existence of documents and debts then plunges Indonesian migrant workers into prostitution, according to one of the companions of the Indonesian Migrant Workers Association (ATKI) in Macau in 2009.

More further, prostitution also occurs because of the abuse of power by agents in the destination country. In this phase encountered cases of deflection of state goals through persuasion, trading between agents, working hours and bills not in accordance with the contract, salary deducted or unpaid, documents held by the employer, suicide, raped, and other cases; (D. Noeswantari, 2011).

Third, the post-placement phase (repatriation and post- migration Indonesian migrant workers). The Indonesian government has prepared arrival gates specifically for migrant workers. This has made it easier for perpetrators of extortion to carry out their actions for several reasons. Many migrant workers choose to avoid this special gate.

Some Indonesian workers also experienced fraud, even murder, on their way home. This phase is closely related to family support and relations in deciding the use of remittance funds and the need to return to work abroad. Remittance funds were not always used optimally to improve family living standards because in some cases found couples who were left to work abroad instead used it to remarry (D. Noeswantari, 2011).

Research about illegal migrant workers is very important to support the achievement of the research strategic plan focused on strengthening the formation of the Workforce Science Techno Park (STP) workforce. The implication is that all educational, research and service activities must lead to improvement the quality of labor (human resources) in Madura. In addition to supporting the research plan of Trunojoyo Madura University, this research is also in line with President Jokowi's NAWACITA fifth agenda, namely Protecting the Rights and Safety of Migrant Workers (5th national development agenda). The objectives of the agenda are 1) Realization of recruitment and placement mechanisms that protect migrant workers; 2) Increased increase of migrant workers who have the skills and expertise in accordance with market needs. (RPJMN 2015-2019).

### **The problems of this research are :**

- (1) analyze the knowledge, attitudes of the community, TKI and prospective migrant workers about the safe migration process
- (2) analyze the patterns, models and processes of migrating in the village
- (3) Analyzing barriers, challenges faced by migrant workers during the migration process . The specific objectives of the first year study were (i) to analyze knowledge, attitudes of community perceptions, migrant workers and prospective migrant workers about the safe migration process (ii) to analyze migration patterns, models and processes in the village (iii) analyze barriers, challenges faced by migrant workers during the migration process

### **Special benefits**

1. Providing protection and advocacy efforts for Indonesian migrant workers, TKI families and prospective migrant workers
2. Encouraging a social movement in the community, namely Mainstreaming the Principles of Human Rights and Gender Mainstreaming
2. Providing transfer of knowledge to the community, TKI and prospective migrant workers about the safe migration process

### 3. Increasing the institutional capacity of village officials, the Manpower Office and related agencies in the case of a safe migration process for the community

## METHODOLOGY

The research design in the first year was descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques in-depth observation interviews and questionnaire distributions. Research locations are in Madura. This population is the highest sending Sub-district of TKI in Madura, TKI, prospective TKI, with purposive sampling selection technique. This research is expected to produce a model of community empowerment to minimize illegal CBO-based labor migrants. Data collection in this study was carried out in several steps, namely: in-depth interviews and observations carried out to collect data on the needs and problems of migrant workers, prospective migrant workers. Data on the level of knowledge, education and skills of Indonesian labor migrants, prospective migrant workers are collected through questionnaires, observations and in-depth interviews.

The object of this research is:

- a) Indonesian Workers: prospective Indonesian Workers
- b) villagers sending the most migrant workers in Bangkalan and Sampang Regencies
- c) Related services / apparatus

The method used in this study are: (1) observation, (2) in-depth interviews (3) triangulation.

Data collection techniques (observation, questionnaire distribution, in-depth interviews)

a. Data about the needs and problems of Indonesian migrant workers, prospective migrant workers are obtained by conducting observations and in-depth interviews. Interviews were carried out to Indonesian migrant workers, prospective migrant workers, the highest sending migrant workers in Bangkalan and Sampang. Data on needs and problems is useful to find out the needs and problems of Indonesian migrant workers.

b) Data on programs that have been carried out by the authorities and the Manpower Office and factors that hinder the program are explored by in-depth interviews. This data is important so that the programs we design do not overlap with the Dinas program and can synergize. c) Data on the knowledge, skills, interests, talents of Indonesian migrant workers. This data collection is important to know the extent to which migrant workers' knowledge and skills, interests, talents and needs of migrant workers are in line with market competency standards (destination countries). This data is important so that the formulated training programs are in accordance with the market (destination countries)

In this study the validity or stabilization and correctness of information is achieved by using two triangulation techniques namely source triangulation and method triangulation. Source triangulation is done in two ways. The first method is done by comparing the data obtained from prospective migrant workers, the general public and the same service staff in different situations. The second method is done by comparing information from prospective migrant workers, migrant workers and government officials with different positions (status).

Triangulation of the method is done by comparing the results of structured and in-depth interviews and comparing the documents and the results of recording.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In connection with the knowledge and process of migration, there are diverse opinions and processes between Indonesian migrant workers, one with another. Some informants departed legally, but some also departed illegally (undocumented).

Informants who departed legally and illegally in the same way - said that the TKI should go legal (official) to be safe, not to be sent home and not chased by the police. As seen in the interview quote below:

‘Yes through the UPT, in the legal process. Thank God I become a legal TKI and follow all the processes to become an legal TKI. (interview with Hamdan)

‘I joined the legal because there I want to live safely in performing the Hajj and work there. ’ (interview with Asna)

‘Yes, I take part in the legal so that it is safe not to be caught by the police and sent home. (interview with Siti)

‘Are you part of becoming an official (legal) or unofficial (illegal) migrant worker? Alhamdulillah, I become a legal migrant worker, I will take all the exams to become a migrant worker, so I am not afraid anymore and relax working there. ’ (interview with Siti)

Being an legal TKI there is a process (stage) that must be passed, among others, school, medical, for the passport after leaving. Following are excerpts from interviews with Indonesian migrant workers:

‘What are the steps that must be passed to become an legal migrant worker? Pursue the BLK school, medical, make a passport, and after that just wait for the departure day. (interview with Hamdan) ’

‘What are the steps that must be passed to become an legal migrant worker? I was still attending school before making a passport, the new graduating school made a passport, after that I just waited for departure. ’ (interview with Asna)

‘What are the steps that must be passed to become an legal migrant worker? Firstly, join the Jakarta Arabic Language School, for example after passing all the school examinations, after that, just make a passport and just wait for the departure day ’. (interview with Siti)

It is different from legal migrant workers who have to go through the education process. So illegal migrants do not go through the education process. Illegal pay less than legal ones

‘What are the steps that must be passed to become an legal migrant worker? I do not know because I was illegal process, there was no education process in advance, just making a passport for Umrah. (interview with Mansur)

‘What are the steps that must be passed to become legal migrant worker? I did not know that I was not an legal , because the legal payment was usually more expensive, I don't know how much I paid if the legal one I forgot. (interview with Toha)

Usually they (Illegal TKI) are invited by relatives, umroh neighbors and some who do not pay. The process is very simple.

‘What are the steps that must be passed to become a legal migrant worker? I Don't know me because I didn't join a legal migrant worker, only I made a passport to Surabaya, waited around a month and it was immediately departed '. (interview with Siti Zahro)

However, the consequences of these illegal migrant workers if they find out that the police will be arrested and returned to Indonesia. There are informants who are prohibited from going out of the house. Following the excerpts of interviews with informants:

‘Are you part of becoming an official (legal) or unofficial (illegal) migrant worker? I joined the illegal, because I was dispatched here and no need to pay. To be safe in my presence there, I have never been home because I am afraid of being arrested by the police and sent home. ' (interview with Siti Zahro)

How safe is your knowledge to become a migrant worker? Yes, the official will come so it's safe not to get caught by the police and repatriated like me. (interview with Mansur)

Another TKI informant who departed illegally said that if he was forced by his parents. He left with someone who invited him to Umrah.

‘Are you part of becoming an official (legal) or unofficial (illegal) migrant worker? I used to go illegal process, before I left, I became unemployed and only farmed, while parents urged and there were also opportunities for people to invite Umrah, I wanted to, and finally I stayed there for 3 years. (interview with Mansur)

### **Motives, Destination Countries, Welfare of Indonesian Workers**

There are various motives being migrant workers. Some of these motives include unemployment in the area of origin. They work only as farmers ...

‘Before becoming a migrant worker, what`s your job ? I usually unemployment besides that, I'm farming. (interview with Toha)

‘Before becoming a migrant worker, what`s your job ? Yes, farmer, if there is no other work here except the farmer. (interview with Asna)

‘Before becoming a migrant worker, what`s your work? Farmers, there are no other jobs besides farmers' (interview with Mansur)

‘Before becoming a migrant worker, what`s your work? Farmers, no other work besides the farmer (interview with Siti)

‘Before becoming a migrant worker, what`s your work? Well, if you work here, the farmer doesn't have any other work besides the farm unless you go to TKI (interview with Siti Zahro)

Another informant said that the factor that pushed them to become a migrant worker was to pay off debt, the economy was in trouble. Another informant said because to make a living because of earning a living because of divorce with her husband.

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? Because I have a lot of debt, and thank God, all debts are paid off. (interview with Toha)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? My economy has a problem that requires me to work there. (interview with Hamdan)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? I don't have a husband, I was forced to leave to provide for my family and the needs of my two children. (interview with Sitti)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? I didn't know that my husband was forced to leave to provide for my family and my two children 'needs. (interview with Siti)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? After I divorced from my husband for 6 months, (interview with Siti Zahro)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? Because of the many economic demands of debt ... (interview with Asna)

Another factor that is the motive of migrant workers departing relates to prestige (pride), which is to take a pilgrimage and build a new house. This can be seen from the quote from the interview with the informant below

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? ... can build a house here. (interview with Toha)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? because I want to have the same decent home as the other TKI houses, interview with Sitti)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? because I want to have the same decent home as the other TKI houses, and also because I am not even my husband is forced to leave to provide for my family and the needs of my two children. (interview with Siti)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? I just want to do Hajj, (interview with Hamdan)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? I wished to take the pilgrimage and all the work and accuracy of anyone who wanted to dispatch for free I immediately made the decision to go to Saudi Arabia to become a TKI (interview with Siti Zahro)

‘What factors encourage you to become a migrant worker? want to perform the pilgrimage. (interview with Asna)

### **Country of Destination**

The country that is the destination of Indonesian labor migrants is Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. The reasons vary. Indonesian labor migrants who choose Saudi Arabia as a destination country say they want to go on pilgrimage while working. Some choose Malaysia because it is close and the cost is not expensive. The following is an excerpt from the interview with the informant:

‘Why did you choose that country? Saudi Arabia, because of the intention of virtue, I want to carry out the pilgrimage and also while making money to improve my home and provide for my family. ’ (interview with Siti)

‘Why did you choose that country? Because I want to go on Hajj while working to get money ’. (interview with Siti Zahro)

‘Why did you choose that country? It's good if you go there and so the migrant workers there can benefit twice, namely the ability to carry out the Hajj and at the same time get money by working there as a migrant worker. ’ (interview with Asna)

‘Why did you choose that country? Yes, there are the neighbors who mostly go to Saudi Arabia migrant workers. Yes, it would be nice if you go to Saudi Arabia besides working for money, you can also perform the Hajj. (interview with Mansur)

‘Which country do you become a migrant worker and how many years do you become a migrant worker? I choose a Saudi Arabian migrant worker contract for 2 years, after the contract I immediately went home, but I was lured to want to be hajj again and told not to go home. ’ (interview with Siti)

‘Before becoming a migrant worker, what`s your work? Farmers, there are already a lot here and it is a common thing to become a migrant worker, but the dominant one is the Malaysian migrant workers if now, if so, then Arabic ’(interview with Hamdan)

‘Why did you choose that country? Because the intention of virtue I want to carry out Hajj and all work become TKI because I want to know what kind of TKI is like, because here it is normal and many are leaving to become migrant workers in Saudi Arabia first, if now what is in great demand is Saudi Arabia again but Malaysia ’. (interview with Hamdan)

‘Why did you choose that country? It is good, it is cheaper, not expensive, like shipping to Saudi Arabia, I only pay 4,000,000 to Malaysia, and even then it is empty in terms of legal. (interview with Toha)

‘Which country do you become a migrant worker and how many years do you become a migrant worker? I have been in Saudi Arabia for 10 years, there is a TKI. (interview with Asna)

The work carried out by Indonesian labor migrants varies. Female migrants usually work as housewives. While male migrant workers work as builders, servants, restaurants. The amount of salary received by Indonesian labor migrants ranges from 600 to 1400 rial. The following are excerpts from interviews with the workers

‘ When you become a migrant worker, what are you doing there? As long as I was a migrant worker in Malaysia, I worked in the wooden parts of houses and other buildings. (interview with Toha)

‘When you become a migrant worker, what are you doing there? I am there working at home, so all the household work I do includes babysitting. (interview with Asna)



‘When you become a migrant worker, what are you doing there? I was working as a migrant worker at a restaurant in Saudi Arabia, and I became a food delivery worker (interview with Hamdan)

‘When you become a migrant worker, what are you doing there? As long as I became a migrant worker in Saudi Arabia, I worked as a housekeeper, cook and all household work including child care. (interview with Siti)

‘When you become a migrant worker, what are you doing there? As long as I became a migrant worker in Saudi Arabia, I worked as a waitress for madrasa teachers there in Saudi Arabia. ’ (interview with Mansur)

‘How much is the monthly income as long as I become a TKI? 600 rial, but if Indonesia's money is around 1,250,000 (interview with Hamdan)

‘How much is the monthly income as long as I become a TKI? 2,000,000s per month. (interview with Toha)

‘How much is the monthly income as long as I become a TKI? 800 rial, but if Indonesia's money is around 2,000,000 '. (interview with Asna)

‘How much is the monthly income as long as you become a TKI? 800 rial is the beginning of a new work but when it gets older it rises to 1,400 rial, but if the Indonesian money is around 2,000,000 '. (interview with Siti Zahro)

‘How much is the monthly income as long as you become a TKI? I used to pay 600 rials a month, the Indonesian money was around 1,250,000. (interview with Mansur)

## CONCLUSION

There are various motives being migrant workers. Some of these motives include unemployment in the area of origin. They work only as farmers Another informant said that the factor that pushed them to become a migrant worker was to pay off debt, the economy was in trouble. Another informant said because to make a living because of earning a living because of divorce with her husband. Another factor that is the motive of migrant workers departing relates to prestige (pride), which is to take a pilgrimage and build a new house. In connection with the knowledge and process of migration, there are diverse opinions and processes between Indonesian migrant workers, one with another. Some informants departed legally, but some also departed illegally (undocumented). The country that is the destination of Indonesian labor migrants is Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. The reasons vary. Indonesian labor migrants who choose Saudi Arabia as a destination country say they want to go on pilgrimage while working. Some choose Malaysia because it is close and the cost is not expensive

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RPJMN 2015-20191

**Informants:**

Name : H. Hamdan

Address: Ds. Lembung Timur, kec. Lenteng

Age : 43 tahun

Education: SD

Name: Hj. Siti Zahro

Address: Ds. Lembung Timur, kec. Lenteng

Age: 35 tahun

Education: SD

Name: Hj. Asna

Address: Ds. Lembung Timur, kec. Lenteng

Age: 46 tahun

Education: SD

Name: Hj. Sitti

Address: Ds. Lembung Timur, kec. Lenteng

Age: 43 tahun

Education: SD tidak lulus

Name: H. Mansur

Address: Ds. Lembung Timur, kec. Lenteng

Age: 41 tahun

Education: SD

Name: Toha

Address: Ds. Lembung Timur, kec. Lenteng

Age: 47 tahun

Education: SMP