

# Mobility and Social Change of the Economy of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Indonesia

(Case study in gowa district, South Sulawesi)

<sup>1</sup>Sitti Asnaeni. AM, <sup>2</sup>Andi Agustang, <sup>3</sup>Musdalia Mustadjar, <sup>4</sup>Suradi Tahmir

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar, Indonesia

<sup>2,3,4</sup> Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup>e-mail: [sittiasnaeni@unismuh.ac.id](mailto:sittiasnaeni@unismuh.ac.id), <sup>2</sup>e-mail: [anddiagust63@gmail.com](mailto:anddiagust63@gmail.com), <sup>3</sup>e-mail: [musdaliaunm@gmail.com](mailto:musdaliaunm@gmail.com),

<sup>4</sup>e-mail: [radita\\_unm@yahoo.com](mailto:radita_unm@yahoo.com)

**Abstract**— The purpose of this study is to analyze the factors that cause mobility and socio-economic changes in the Indonesian Migrant Workers of South Sulawesi. Interest in becoming Indonesian Migrant Workers is increasing from year to year; this makes researchers look for the meaning behind the fact why the population of South Sulawesi grew migrant workers abroad.

This type of descriptive qualitative research, post-positivism paradigm with a phenomenological perspective, the data collection technique is participatory observation and in-depth interviews. The analysis technique is carried out by inductive means, namely analyzing the factors that cause the mobility of Indonesian migrant workers. The results of the study show that several factors cause the people of South Sulawesi to mobilize as migrant workers abroad.

Various factors that encourage people to do social mobility to become migrant workers. These factors are not always closely related to economic motives only to improve the standard of living and their families, but can also be driven by the culture of a society's culture. In the case of this study, several motivating factors for the scope of South Sulawesi, in particular, Makassar and surrounding areas were found based on three main factors, namely: (a) economic factors; (b) social factors; (c) cultural factors.

**Keywords-** *Mobility, Migrant Workers, Socio-Economic Change.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of migration is one of three components that cause changes in population in the world [1]. Labour migration is part of the international migration process. The cause is the inequality of the global wage level, economic relations with the recipient country, capital transfers, the role of transnational companies, structural changes in the labour market (international division of labour) (Pressat 1985; Hugo, 1995; Sukamdi, 2008; Purwatiningsih, 2016).

Previous studies on the employment of Indonesian migrants include, among others, Rhomadlon, 2017; Rokhman, 2009; Wafirotin, 2013; Purwatiningsih, 2016. The research examines the impact of migration on the socio-economic conditions of migrant worker families. Another case with this research is to investigate the socio-economic changes of Indonesian migrant workers before and after work.

In Indonesia, the phenomenon of social migration through the process of becoming a migrant worker becomes very important as a source of life for many Indonesians and as a substantial country foreign

exchange. In general, three conditions cause the migration of workers from a region to make decisions to carry out activities outside their territory. The three terms are poverty, low employment opportunities and low wage rates for labour unions

These economic conditions then encourage them to make rational decisions that might help them. International migration is one of the choices that is considered the most logical, although they are also aware of the various risks that may occur.

## II. THEORETIC CONCEPTION

Social change is the process by which changes in the structure and function of a social system. The change occurred as a result of the inclusion of reform ideas adopted by the members of the social system concerned. According to Piotr Sztompka (2004), social change can be imagined as changes that occur within or include social systems. More precisely, there are differences between the state of a particular system in different periods.

Strasser and Randall (Sztompka, 1981) consider that a change can be imagined as something that occurs after a certain period, we deal with differences in the conditions observed between before and after the period of the difference. According to Macionis (1987: 638) that social change is a transformation in the organization of society in thought patterns and behaviour at a specific time.

The social change is a pattern of behaviour, social relations, institutions and social structures at a certain time. Social changes that occur in an institution will result in changes in other institutions to achieve a new balance. Thus, society is not static, but dynamic, even though the change is very orderly and always leads to a new equilibrium. However, on the other hand, Parsons's theory of functionalism is often referred to as conservative, because it assumes that society will always be in a situation of harmony, stability, balance and stability. Even though there is still conflict in society and there are conditions of disharmony.

### Components of Social Change

Social change can be divided into several types, depending on the angle of observation: whether in terms of aspects, fragments or dimensions of the social system. This is because the state of the social network is not simple, not just a single dimension, but appears as a combination or a combination of the results of the state of various components such as the following:

1. The main elements (for example, the number and type of individuals and their actions).
2. Relationships between elements (for example, social ties, loyalty, dependence, relationships between individuals, integration).
3. Functioning of elements in the system (for example, the role of work played by individuals or the need for certain actions to preserve social order).
4. Maintenance of boundaries (for instance criteria for determining who is a member of the system, conditions for accepting individuals in the group, recruitment principles in the organization, and so on).
5. Subsystems (for example the number and type of sections, segments, or special divisions that can be distinguished).
6. Environment (for example natural conditions or geopolitical location).

### Aspects of Social Change

Important things in social change involve the following aspects, namely: changes in people's mindset, changes in people's behaviour, and changes in material culture.

#### 1. Change in people's mindset

Changes in people's mindsets and attitudes concern the issue of people's attitudes towards various social and cultural issues around them that result in the equilibrium of new patterns of thought adopted by society as a modern attitude. For example the attitude towards work that the old concept and mindset about work are the formal sector (being a civil servant), so the idea of work is divided into two, namely the formal and informal sectors. Currently, there is a change to the old work concept where the concept work is not as a formal sector (being a civil servant) but is conceptualized as a sector that generates maximum income. Thus, working not only in the formal sector but anywhere that is important to make maximum money. Thus, the concept of work becomes the formal sector, which is working in government, the private sector, that is working in large private companies, the informal sector, namely working in the informal sector, such as small entrepreneurs, street vendors, NGOs and so on. And the freelance sector that works as a contract in various activities, projects, etc.

### *2. Changes in community behaviour*

Changes in community behaviour related to the problem of changes in social systems, where people leave the old social system and run a new social system, such as changes in behaviour measuring the performance of an institution or agency. If in the old system, the size of the output is only seen from the aspects of outputs and processes without having to calculate which outputs and results are achieved. Then in the social system, new institutions or institutions increase the results of outputs and processes, namely by using certification standards such as BAN-PT in the institution tertiary and ISO certification in public institutions including tertiary institutions.

### *3. Changes in material culture*

Changes in material culture involve changes in cultural artefacts used by the community, such as clothing models, photography works, the film works, technology, and so on which continue to change from time to time to suit the needs of the community.

### *Indonesian Migrant Workers*

In 2004 the Indonesian Migrant Worker was still in use. In 2017, it was revised as an Indonesian Migrant Worker, as well as the law adopted in 2004 using Law No. 39 of 2004 concerning the placement and protection of Indonesian workers overseas. The revision process of the law is attached.

Law Number 39 of 2004 concerning the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers abroad is deemed to be incompatible with the development needs of the protection of Indonesian migrant workers. In response to this, the government revised the law into Law Number 18 of 2017. Speaking of Indonesian Migrant Workers, it refers to:

1. Law Number 18 the Year 2017 concerning Indonesian Migrant Workers.
2. Law Number 13 of 2003 concerning Manpower.

According to Law Number 18 the Year 2017 Article 1 Paragraph 2 Indonesian migrant workers are any Indonesian citizens who will come, are or have done work by receiving wages outside the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Meanwhile, according to the handbook of the field of population migration (migrants) is the movement of population, from one place to another, both crossing the country's political boundaries and administrative boundaries / internal boundaries in a country with the aim of settling.

Migration is often interpreted as a relatively permanent move from one place to another. People who migrate are called migrants. According to the population handbook, that migration can be divided into two, namely:

1. International Migration

## 2. Internal Migration

International migration is the movement of people from one country to another. Migration is the entry of a population into a country called Immigration, while the opposite is if the transition is participation that exits the Emigration country.

Because of the small number of people entering Indonesia and the population of Indonesia moving to other countries, if you look at the total population of Indonesia, it can be assumed that International Migration equals zero or does not exist.

Internal migration is the movement of people from one region (province or district) to another in one country. Migration of people out of an area of origin is called out-migration while the entry of a population into an area of destination is called in-migration.

Then according to article 1 paragraph (2) of Law No. 13 of 2003 concerning manpower, what is meant by labour is "everyone who is able to do work to produce goods and / services both to meet their own needs and for the community".

### III. RESEARCH METHODS

This type of research is qualitative because the problems studied are phenomenological. Aiming to uncover the social facts hidden behind the phenomenon of socio-economic changes of Indonesian migrant workers in South Sulawesi. As Corbin and Straus (1990) revealed that qualitative, research that wants to uncover facts hidden behind phenomena is a type of phenomenological qualitative research.

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach that aims to reveal the process and interpretation of meaning that leads to the disclosure of the state of the behaviour of individuals who are observed holistically.

In this study, researchers already have a clear definition of the subject of research and will use the question who in exploring the information needed. The purpose of descriptive research is to produce an accurate picture of a group, describe the mechanism of a process or relationship, provide a complete picture, either in verbal or numerical form, present basic information about a relationship, create a set of categories and classify research subjects, explain a set of stages or processes as well as for storing contradictory information regarding research subjects.

Based on the explanation above, the research on the study of the socio-economic changes of Indonesian migrant workers, how the process is carried out so that they choose to become migrant workers is a type of descriptive research because it will describe the socio-economic phenomena of migrant workers in Gowa Regency.

Related to the type of research, the approach in this study uses a qualitative approach. In this approach, the researcher makes a complex picture, examines words, detailed reports from the views of the research subjects and conducts studies in natural situations (Creswell, 1998). Bogdan and Taylor (Moleong, 2007) suggest that a qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written and oral words from people and observed behaviour.

The approach of this research is qualitative, namely the study of the socio-economic changes of foreign migrant workers in the form of a process of constructing the quality and meanings behind the social reality. The choice of a qualitative approach in this study is intended as an effort to uncover and describe phenomena and facts that occur to immigrant workers abroad.

Data and information obtained from the results of initial interviews with a number of informants are representations of the cases they experienced, and the results of observations of actions and activities carried out by migrant workers abroad in Gowa Regency were analyzed and interpreted as a reality.

This research was conducted in two different places, namely Gowa Regency and Gowa Regency. In Gowa Regency, targeting stakeholders from the central government, namely the Makassar BP3TKI office located at Jl. I am packing Raya No 104 Tello Baru Village Panakkukang Makassar District. Whereas in Gowa Regency it is targeted at informants who act as migrant workers.

Basically, in this study using two types of data, namely: primary data and secondary data with proportions in accordance with the objectives to be achieved.

Primary data is the main data source used to capture various data through informants obtained intentionally (purposive) related to the focus being studied. This is done through the interview method. Through interviews, researchers will find out more in-depth about Indonesian migrant workers in Gowa Regency.

Secondary data is a source of supporting data needed to complete the primary data collected. This is adjusted to the needs of field data related to the object being studied. Secondary data can be obtained from official documents in the form of a general description of the placement and protection services for Indonesian workers (BP3TKI) through the data provided, and the results of previous studies or studies.

#### IV. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gowa Regency is an important buffer zone for Makassar City and surrounding districts. Gowa Regency is an area that has historical wealth because it is the centre of the government of the Kingdom of Gowa. The administrative area of Gowa Regency consists of 18 sub-districts and 167 villages / sub-districts covering an area of 1,883.33 square kilometres or equal to 3.01 per cent of the area of South Sulawesi Province.

Gowa Regency is mostly highlands, which is around 72.26 per cent. There are nine sub-districts which are highlands, namely Parangloe, Manuju, Tinggimoncong, Tombolo Pao, Parigi, Bungaya, Bontolempangan, Tompobulu and Biringbulu. Of the total area of Gowa Regency, 35.30 per cent has a land slope of above 40 degrees, namely in the districts of Parangloe, Tinggimoncong, Bungaya and Tompobulu. Gowa Regency is traversed by many sizable rivers, which are 15 rivers. The river with the largest flow area is the Jeneberang River, which covers an area of 881 km<sup>2</sup> with a length of 90 km



Figure 1. Map of Gowa Regency

### 1. Characteristics of Research Informants

The research informants are full Indonesian migrant workers, consisting of ten subjects with different backgrounds. The ten respondents did not live in the same village office but spread in 6 sub-districts. In accordance with data collection techniques through snowball sampling, the ten informants should be considered as being able to represent the real conditions of all Indonesian migrant workers in Gowa Regency in particular.

#### a. Family Head Education (KK)

The condition of the level of public education is quite influential in the provision of a quality workforce. With a good education, the community can have a good job too. Based on the level of education, the researcher can see that the respondents sampled have a relatively low level of education.

In this study, it was not easy to find respondents, because migrant workers to Malaysia were scattered in several areas in Makassar, the researchers got additional respondents from the Indonesian Job Fair Employment Business Meeting held in Makassar, which lasted for two days. For two days, the researcher pursued respondents who considered it appropriate to be used as a sample of their research. From the program, the researchers interviewed five respondents; then from these five respondents, the researcher obtained information about several other respondents. from the information of the five respondents the researchers obtained information about the education level of migrant workers

#### b. The main job

In a society where the quality of human resources is quite low, the supply of business opportunities is highly dependent on natural conditions. Thus, it is as if members of society cannot escape from dependence on nature. This is due to the fact that nature is the most important dependent place to meet their needs. Natural conditions greatly affect the type of work they have.

Most types of work for migrant workers are agriculture. With the background of the work, it appears that there is a correlation between work in the origin and destination areas, this condition indicates that the type of work in the area of origin is quite influential on the work of migrants in the destination area.

#### c. Number of Migrant Household Members

The number of household members can be seen in the following table:

Table 3 Number of Migrant Household Members

NO.	Respondents	Member of family
1.	Sompo Bin Kiring	1-5
2.	Sanusi	6-8
3.	Mo'lo	1-3
4.	Habibi	4-5
5.	Jamaluddin	4-6
6.	Kenna	1-3
7.	Japari	2-5
8.	Rusdi	6-7
9.	Husna	1-3
10.	Rustam	4-5

Source: Primary Data, 2019

#### d. Age of Head of Family

Apart from the aspect of the number of migrant household members, demographically the age of the migrant head of household can also be distinguished. Age distribution of Head of Family can be seen in the following table:

Table 3

No.	Respondents	Age
1.	Sompo Bin Kiring	43 Tahun
2.	Sanusi	40 Tahun
3.	Mo'lo	25 Tahun
4.	Habibi	19 Tahun
5.	Jamaluddin	40 Tahun
6.	Kenna	45 Tahun
7.	Japari	35 Tahun
8.	Rusdi	30 Tahun
9.	Husna	31 Tahun
10.	Rustam	28 Tahun

Source: Primary Data, 2019

#### *e. Marital status*

Marital status shows that although migrants do not yet have the responsibility of the family burden. They have not yet become the head of the family, but have a position as children who help ease the economic burden of the family, where it can be seen that there has been a shift in the function of family responsibilities from the status of the child to the status of the head of the family.

#### *2. Factors That Cause Mobility of Migrant Workers*

Various factors that encourage people to do social mobility to become migrant workers. as follows:

##### *a. Economic factors*

The low absorption of labour in the country encourages job seekers to take advantage of work opportunities abroad. Therefore, working abroad is an enterprising effort to resolve the issue. The issue becomes the main, fundamental for the limited opportunities/employment in the country, including salaries or wages in the country, which are usually much lower than abroad. Based on this, the migrant worker rests his hopes for the welfare of himself and his family.

##### *b. Social Factors*

Factors causing people to become migrant workers include social factors. Social factors, in this case, are the level of education, access to health services, and social environment acceptance of the economic situation of the household.

##### *c. Cultural Factors*

Apart from economic and social factors, cultural factors are another cause of people becoming migrant workers. The people of Gowa are very attached to the tradition of wandering. The Gowa community is very identical with their ability as a nomad. Long before Australia was discovered by the Arabs and colonized by the British, the Makassar Buginese had arrived in Australian waters to collect sea cucumbers. The Buginese

Makassar also first conducted social-economic interaction with the Aboriginal people, the original Melanesian nation of the country.

The main purpose of the PMI is to improve economic conditions for the better and prosper their lives. A prior it can be accepted that migration always causes social change. The movement of PMI from its residence in the new environment in the process of displacement will cause a lot of friction such as culture, norms and others. That will cause a shift in the value of life to the level of human treatment.

Humans are individual beings who cannot escape from relationships with other humans. As a result of the relationships that occur between individuals (humans) then social groups are born, which are based on common interests. However, that does not mean that all human societies can be said to be social groups. To say that social groups have certain requirements. In social groups that have been composed community, the structure will occur a change in the composition is a necessity because change is an absolute thing that happens wherever the place (Karim, 2009).

The difference in the environment where before they worked as PMI had a very strong influence on the changes experienced by PMI abroad. Where initially most of them came from villages that could be said to be still thick with their customs, still thick with their religiosity, social norms were still very strong, and there was still social control from the surrounding community then they moved to a new environment where they found lots of new things, new friends, so a new habit arises that they didn't do before they became PMI. This has triggered the emergence of various changes experienced by PMI abroad.

While in Malaysia, the Buginese Makassar tribe is no doubt the closest ethnic group to their kinship with Malaysia. Sultan, Civil Minister, and government officials in Malaysia still more or less bloody Makassar Buginese. Call it Najib Razak for example.

The informant revealed that:

"I went to Malaysia because there were many Makassar people. So it feels like it can be like in your own village. Whatever we work, there is important to be successful and bring good results later when we go home" (Interview, 12 May 2019).

### *3. The inhibiting and driving factors of PMI's Social Economic Change*

This section describes how the inhibiting and supporting factors and their impact on PMI Gowa Regency socioeconomic changes. All the factors that will be mentioned have a close relationship that cannot be separated from each other because what is an inhibiting factor is at the same time a driving factor.

#### *a. Financial Governance*

The household economy of migrant workers will always be affected by income and expenditure according to the level of consumption needs.

#### *b. Assets and Investment*

Assets and investments, in this case, are in the form of money or valuables/goods owned by PMI after working abroad. These assets and investments can be in the form of savings / current accounts/deposits; House; soil; securities; vehicle; furniture; logal start; woven cloth or other valuable things.

#### *c. Government and Private Participation*

The role of the central government and regional governments to improve the economic welfare of the people is absolutely needed. That social and economic imbalance is triggered by the presence or absence of the two elements. A strong country is a country whose economic capacity is largely based on per capita size because it can affect the rate of inflation.



The meaning of government participation is at least oriented towards strengthening community empowerment as to develop the ability and independence of the community in all aspects of life including economic, socio-cultural, environmental and political aspects so that gradually the community is able to develop themselves and their environment and play an active role in the development process starting the preparation planning, implementing, financing, utilizing, maintaining and developing development results.

To achieve this, the strengthening of community empowerment should ideally target a number of key issues, including first, developing community institutional capacity. Second, Developing economic development and business to the micro, village level. Third, Strengthen the quality of village governance. Fourth, strengthening the quality of management support and other technical support in the scope of local government to the lowest level, namely villages.

From the information gathered to PMI it is known that:

"There is no program what is the name of the Gowa Regency government for me to be included in the work. I keep my own business looking for money not to rely on anyone "(Interview, May 1, 2019).

The informant's acknowledgement illustrates the reality of government and the reality of citizens who are in conflict with each other. If the recognition of the Gowa Regency government has been able to touch every social layer to improve the welfare of the community cannot be interpreted as a totality of businesses that synergize with one another, because the fact is that the PMI has not been touched, it must still try itself to supplement its family finances by working odd jobs.

#### *4. Immigrant Workers' Social-Economic Sustainability Strategy*

The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2017 that states that recognize the types of citizens working abroad: The Indonesian government or its citizens may work abroad to countries that have an MoU with the government of the Republic of Indonesia. Therefore, to be able to work abroad there must first be an agreement between the countries concerned after the work agreement is done between countries then the government or citizens can become foreign workers in a country that wants to be addressed. Even then, through a variety of requirements ranging from the registration process to finally declared eligible to work abroad.

## V. CONCLUSION

International migration is the migration of people from one country to another. Four factors cause movement abroad. They are; low income, limited employment, and physical conditions that do not support so that by migrating abroad can increase income, and get relatively high salaries while the pull factors that come from the destination country are high salaries, broad employment opportunities and experience.

Personally, migrants decide to immigrate and work abroad because they want to live independently and do not want to depend on others for the future of their family life.

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