

Migration in East Java, Indonesia: Implication for Family Welfare and Rural Development

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Background

Indonesia has a surplus of unskilled labour. The labour force has increased in rural areas, but unskilled labour was still existed in the agriculture sector. Rural to urban migration provides a strategy for rural households to allocate their labour resources among areas, to reduce risk and increase their income. Meanwhile, a massive rural to urban migration which has no opportunity to work causes a problem in the rural as well as urban areas. International migration flows in Indonesia will continue to increase in the future due to limited domestic job opportunities, the average level of education in the country, proliferation of mass media, and increasingly and cheap access to overseas countries. In the mean time, the involvement of an immigration 'industry', both legal and illegal, has accelerated the flow of international migration from Indonesia. A high population density in urban areas creates inequalities, such as a low supply of public services and many social problems. However, rural development programs should be focused and must be targeted to the specific needs of poor people in peripheral regions without restricting labour mobility.



Research Aim and Methodology

This study aims to identify and analyze the determinants and consequences of rural to urban and international migration in Malang Regency, East Java Province. It helps to identify factors which are essential for the design of policies and programs aiming to promote rural development. The analysis of migration is divided into a descriptive analysis and an econometric analysis.

Specifically the following research questions will be addressed:

- (1) Which is factors influenced the decision where the migrant will go?
- (2) What are the consequences for the material welfare of the families left behind, bearing in mind of the loss of family labour force and the remittances.

Results and Discussion

Since the vacancies in foreign countries were more into domestic works, the majority of individuals who worked abroad were generally female, educated, and in her young age. The result of descriptive analysis shows that individuals who worked abroad had better income compared to those who worked outside the city and non-migrant.

Econometric in micro analysis result shows:

- Remittances is the main reason why they carried out the migration.
- In female international migration, those who had higher educational background and higher age were more inclined to do the migration abroad.
- The male tend to migrate to other city (rural to urban migration) for compatible kind of works.
- Young male workers also tend to work in big cities in search of new experience, mainly in informal sectors.
- Intense social relationships among men often hinder them to work abroad.
- They spent the biggest part of the remittance to buy land, motorcycle, or to build house so that the share for educational expense tend to be small.
- Who received the government's aid tend to have big share on basic needs.
- Who possessed a quite large land had problems with water.

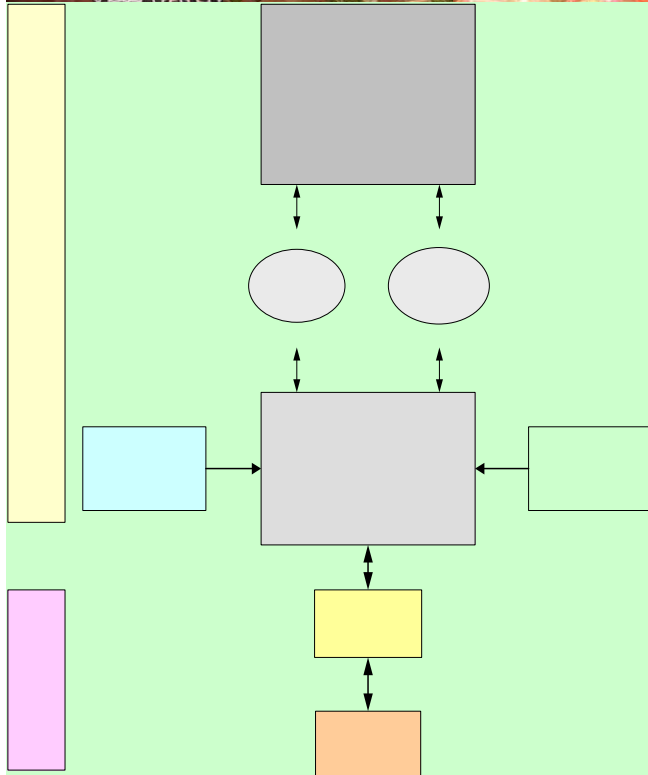
Econometric in macro analysis shows:

- The large number of schools had no effects to the elimination of poverty; it brought negative influence instead.
- A short-term subsidy from government that was given to each school had not been successful in lifting the people from poverty.
- The poor also had no access to the credit yet since the credit seems only given to those who would able to pay.
- The remote location of the market made the people's access to purchase and to sell commodities they need became low.
- Villages with farther access to market usually had problems with drinking water.
- A village that had more building, a better credit access and received credit from government usually had less problems about water.

The government developed the most of school building, while it also gave credit to the villager. It shows the village's big dependency on the government. Most migration happened on area that was dry and suffered from water problems. In East Java, areas like these are commonly located in the south.

Conclusion/Recommendations

- Indonesian government and the labor itself, especially abroad, should anticipate various problems that befall to Indonesian labor migrants.
- A sufficient law education and language training for labors are needed if the government still aims to fulfill the domestic sector in the future.
- Government should prioritize the preparation of the would be migrant labors abroad by training them skills they need since those labors are value of domestic economy.
- The development of village, which aims to the improvement of growth by increasing capital and social access, would lower the chance of migration.
- The research above proved that the growth of industry in Kecamatan Wagir has driven the citizen not to work outside city, but it has not been successful to hinder them working abroad. That is why the bigger investment of high-value commodities might needed.
- The development of village should be oriented to increase the people's educational background. This is much more needed than straight aids.



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