

Utilization of Migrant Workers Revenues for the Family Economy (Study on Families of Overseas Migrant Workers in Tulungagung District, East Java)

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Abstract

*It is undeniable that the high unemployment rate caused by the imbalance between the number of employment and productive labor force encourages people to choose working as migrant workers. The lure of high salaries and the enormous opportunity to work abroad strengthens the people's desire to work as migrant workers particularly to improve the family economy. In 2016, East Java province was the largest supplier of overseas migrant workers in Indonesia and honestly Tulungagung as the regency in East Java was contributed more excessively than other did. Moreover, Tulungagung has approximately sent 500 migrant workers every month. Absolutely, this phenomenon is really interesting to be studied, especially on the utilization of income sent for families who live at home. The data which is used is the primary data from the results of research conducted by survey method to 100 respondents. The selection of research sites (sub-district and village) was carried out by simple random sampling technique and the respondent selection was done by systematic random sampling technique. To deepen the findings of data, conducted in-depth interviews to 10 informants. The results of this study indicate that income (remittances) are used by families for; daily consumption needs, investment in children's education, traditional/ religious ceremonies, production activities and social activities. Of all types of utilization 100% remittances are used for daily consumption, 86% for investment in children's education, and only 34% are used for production activities. In fact, the family of 87% remitters is a productive age society, while only 13% are unproductive. Furthermore, productive age communities who do not use remittance for productive activities claim to be due to; (1). No skills for production and distribution activities, (2). Do not think of doing a business (accepting what it is / a culture of *nerimo ing pandum*) (3). Still confused about what kind of business (2). Remittance results are not sufficient for business capital, (3). Busy to work (as farm laborers and construction workers), and (4). Focus on taking care of the child and family at home. From the results, it can be concluded that the families of overseas migrant workers who live in the home, they have great potential to be empowered for the sustainability of family economic welfare. The family living in the house should be taken seriously to not depending on the families who work as migrant workers abroad, because it is certain that one day the migrant worker will return to his hometown. The authors recommend establishing a "family of migrant workers' families" in which the program contains at least three aspects: (1). Rehabilitation of family social culture of migrant workers and the provision of "business motivation training", (2). Entrepreneurship training that involves 3 aspects, namely: production, distribution and business management, (3). Development of business networks, especially with suppliers of production materials and also consumers or agents / contractors of production.*

Keywords: *community empowerment, economy, migrant workers*