

Analysis of Female Migrant Workers (TKW) Decision to Migrate to Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

In Indonesia, the changes in labor market is caused by lack of investments has resulted in many people losing their jobs, causing the unemployment rate increases. Women involvement in family's economy is an important phenomenon in globalization era. Indonesian women, particularly in rural lower-middle class are almost entirely involved in economic activities. By a migrant worker to other country is one solution to increase the family income from remittances sent by TKW. The study was aimed to analyze the factors of female migrant workers (TKW) decision to work to Saudi Arabia. The research method used was a mix of research methods sequential explanatory model, whereas for analyzing research data used Probit analysis tool for quantitative data analysis that comes with in-depth interviews to support and extend the results of quantitative analysis. The results showed that the factors that influence the decision of TKW to work to Saudi Arabia were ages, number of dependants, sense of prestige to work in Saudi Arabia, and the motivation to migrate is influenced by the network of relatedness between TKW earlier.

Keywords : migration decision, female workers, remittances, Saudi Arabia.

1. Introduction

Development process in developing countries often face problems and obstacles associated with population and employment. Population growth had a direct impact on the growth of the workforce. It certainly will cause a problem how to provide jobs for them. Provision of jobs for residents requires innovation, creativity, and careful planning policy so as to encourage the creation of employment opportunities. Labor is at a very broad scope with different characteristics, depending on the characteristics of a country's economy. Different growth rates of acceleration are also different between regions, between regions and even between countries which encourage resources mobility from one to another places (Speare and Harris, 1986).

In Indonesia, the changes in labor market caused by lack of of investments has resulted in many people losing their jobs, causing the unemployment rate increases. Change from formal to informal employment work coincided with a change of employment in the agricultural sector to the urban sector. Population (men and women) who do not have the capital to undertake entrepreneurial activities choose a job that does not require high expertise and skills as a labor abroad. Women involvement economy is an important phenomenon in the globalization era. Indonesian women, particularly in rural lower-middle class are almost entirely involved in economic activities. They try to improve family economy even though have to left the village and look for alternative jobs. For married woman, the main reason being female migrant workers (TKW) is the family decision. Migration is one of the strategies used by households to ensure the stability of their income, where family members spread through migration in order to reduce the family income's gap (Bardhan and Udry, 1999). Saudi Arabia is the main destination country for TKW from East Lombok regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia (Table 1), because Saudi Arabia is a country with such a patriarchal system in Indonesia, so that they are easy to adapt. Furthermore the relation of religion, culture, and customs are also a driving force of the TKW decision to work to the country. *Sajogyo (1992) stated that* cultural values and attitudes influences human actions either directly or through the thinking patterns.

Table 1: Placement of TKW from East Lombok Regency by Country of Destination On the period of 2008–2011

No.	Destination Country	Year		
		2009	2010	2011*
1.	Malaysia	166	129	398
2.	Saudi Arabia	2.701	2.805	1.079
3.	Other Arabia Countries	84	43	20
4.	Singapore	27	0	4
5.	Brunei Darussalam	1	0	0
6.	Taiwan	2	1	1
7.	Other Countries	3	35	0
		2.984	3.013	1.502

Source: BPS 2012, data up to mid-2011 due to the suspension of the moratorium on labor departure to Saudi Arabia since August 1, 2011 by the Indonesian government.

The positive impact of sending Indonesian workers abroad is increasing foreign exchange income from remittances. Hence, the impact on families of women migrant workers are able to increase family incomes. The family welfare of women migrant workers are increased significantly with remittances being transferred (Quartey, 2006).

According to Harris and Todaro (1970), person motivation to migrate and work becomes important factors to increase the remittances. In order to know the motivation of TKW to migrate to Saudi Arabia, the issues to be raised in this study was what are the factors that influence the decisions of TKW from East Lombok District to work in Saudi Arabia?

In the next section 2 is a literature review about the family's decision to send female family members to migrate. Section 3 will discuss the methodology used, Section 4 is the result of research and Section 5 is the conclusion of the study.

2. Literature Review

Family's decision to send one of their family members become migrant workers in the theory of the New Economics Labour Market (NELM) is a migration decision made by a family member and not an individual decision (Stark and Bloom, 1985). NELM see migration as a livelihood strategy that differentiates income earned by labor and the family as an interesting work which emphasizes the remittance.

In the deteriorating economic conditions and any other activity failed to produce sufficient income, households will rely on migrant remittances to help the family economy (Massey et al., 1993). Davis and Winters (2000) stated that the household as a decision maker and not the individual decision to migrate, with the expectation that family members become labor migrants send remittances to their families. Increased revenue is expected to be the motivation for sending migrant workers. Konseigna (2005) conducted a study on household migration decisions as survival strategy in Burkina Faso. The result suggested that other factors are the cause of the migration decision is the existence of ethnic associations in the agricultural, the excess supply of labor, education, and population density.

In a gender perspective, Schampers and Speckman (1992) explained that the activities related to women's household work out of the house or into the labor market, especially in developing countries, which is a household strategy in order to survive the challenging and prone to violence.

3. Methodology

This study was conducted in the district of East Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, which is located on one of the islands in Indonesia. Collection of labor data involved 200 respondents of married women /widows in 5 largest districts in the district.

The study used a mixture of methods, which used a sequential explanatory design models. Where a combination of research methods this model is characterized by the collection of data and quantitative data analysis conducted in the first phase, and followed by the collection and analysis of qualitative data in the second stage, in order to reinforce the results of previous quantitative research (Creswell, 2009).

For quantitative analysis using Probit models, with measurement of the following variables:

$$KM = \beta_0 + \beta_1 UM + \beta_2 PD + \beta_3 JA + \epsilon \dots \dots \dots (3.1)$$

where

1. KM: decision to become migrant workers to Saudi Arabia,
2. UM: age of the respondents TKW,
3. PD: education of respondents, educational level of women's labor.
4. JA: number of family dependents, number of family members covered by the labor of women include their husbands, children or other relatives who lived in the house the female migrant workers.

The qualitative analysis was used to strengthening and extending the quantitative results. The semi-structure interview was used to interview the TKW and their families.

4. Result and Discussion

Results of Probit analysis of the factors that influence the decision of female migrant workers to Saudi Arabia can be seen in Table 2 where the age, education and number of dependants as an independent variables.

Table 2. Results of Probit Analysis of Factors Affecting the Decision to Become KW to Saudi Arabia

VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT
Constanta	0.498870
Age of TKW (UM)	-0.037890*
Education Level of TKW (PD)	-0.089151
The number of TKW's Family dependants (JA)	0.354054*
R-squared	0.187249

Note: * significant at 1% level

Departure decisions to become TKW significantly influenced by age and the number of TKW's dependants. Educational factors of TKW has no effect on the decision to become TKW. It was due to TKW do not require high levels of education.

4.1. Age Factor

Woman's age at the time decided to become a TKW was a contributing factor to break the labor of migrant workers. This is shown in Table 2 that the value of the coefficient of -0.037890 with age TKW significant 1%. These supported the hypothesis of individual characteristics affect a family's decision to become female migrant workers. The younger the female workforce, then the probability that female workers going overseas to become even greater.

In-depth interview with one of the TKW who had worked in Saudi Arabia regarding the woman's age when women go into labor migrant as follows:

"From the age of 19 yearsalready have a child at that time husband was also working as man migrant workers in Malaysia, but we're divorced .." (TKW 1).

At the young age the TKW have become migrant workers and usually have children already. In such a young age these women must pay for their child, and when she divorced from her husband, parents would taking care and cover the living cost of the women and their children. It has become a tradition in the community in East Lombok, where the tradition of divorce and remarriage has been entrenched in the area. The men easily divorce his wife for a various of reasons, the average man is working as migrant workers to Malaysia, they left his wife usually within 2 years of the contract, hence most of the workers are married men in the countries where they work. Furthermore, his wife and children are become victim because no funding support during men work abroad. Inevitably their wives and children back to the parents and the parents would taking care their life. When parents economic are not good, then the children and grandchildren they have actually exacerbated the economic burden of the family. As a result to solve it is a migrant woman worker is one way for a family of their family's economic downturn.

This analysis results in accordance with what is proposed by Arenas, et al. (2008) that the migration decision is the decision of the household in order to increase their income and the income sent by family members who migrate abroad. Where one of the factors that underlie the decision to migrate is demographic characteristics such as age, education, gender, marital status, Carletto, et al. (2004) argued that international migration decisions are influenced by household characteristics such as assets, land ownership and demographic composition. Reflecting the ability of household to face the risk is owned by young women tend to be higher. This expectation is due to the success of a few women who went into migrant workers, giving rise to their desire to come try their luck abroad. With the support of parents, husbands or family, then it is easy on young women to go into women migrant workers.

According to Acosta, et al. (2007) remittances have a long-term impact on the welfare of the remittance recipient. Young age has been used as an opportunity to earn a great income by becoming migrant women workers. This is because of the desire to contribute to the family income supplement to face increased expenses due to the high desire to meet the primary and secondary needs of family.

4.2. Number of Family Dependants Factor

Number of dependants also took the decision of TKW being migrant workers, where the number of family dependants include children, husbands, parents or siblings who lived one house with them. Results of the analysis in Table 2 showed that the number of dependants in the family has a significant coefficient of 0.354054 or because its value is below 1%. The results was supported by Cox and Ureta (2003) which stated that the number of children included in the household characteristics have an influence on the decision to work abroad. The addition of the number of dependants in the family resulted in the addition of the expenditure. Increased spending is not followed by an increase in income will encourage female workers to seek greater income, among others, by being a TKW.

The results of the quantitative analysis supported by qualitative findings through in-depth interviews as follows:

"Want to find money for the children ..." (TKW1)

"To finance the family" (TKW 2)

Explained that one of the goals being of TKW is to fund children and family, it is reinforced with in-depth interviews with families of TKW who assert that the TKW finance their children are, as follows:

"Biayak sik ye selapuk anak ne, ite ..." (Father of the TKW1)

Meaning: All have been funded including children and parents.

The purpose of the statement was that the TKW send money to pay for their children and their parents. When the new dependants increases, so does the cost of living of a family. Furthermore, when the husband is supposed to be the head of family is no longer able to ease the economic burden of the family, the wife who replaced the role of husband to support the children and families. Taylor and Rozelle (2003) argued that remittances received by families to improve family welfare. Remittances sent by the female workers, is expected to meet the economic needs of the families left behind at home.

4.3. A Sense of Prestige

New findings regarding the presence of other driving factors obtained in-depth interviews with women in labor in extending the findings of the Probit analysis, which was an element of prestige on TKW to work in Saudi Arabia. Being a TKW is a pride for them. In-depth interviews presented by one of the TKW is as follows:

"Preferably being a TKW because its salary so much, if work here the salary only of five hundred thousand a month at he most .." (TKW 2)

"Better tortured there from here ... shame if seen by the village"(TKW 1).

From the statement of the TKW, it can be concluded that although the TKW already know the risks that would be faced being a TKW, but did not reduce their desire to be TKW to Saudi Arabia. Although many of the problems they will face, but not deterred them to remain a TKW. It is stated also by the Social Service of East Lombok through in-depth interviews as follows :

"There is a problem that went up, so it is usually set off again another name with the same person ... 2 year contract , if indeed it is a problem there will be no contract, he will be deported, sometimes like the previous case there were off again but use any other name" (Social Service Office).

Statement of Social Services is justified by TKW who had been a previous TKW, which gave the following statement:

"Sometimes we do it from the sponsor also make ID cards like that ... it addresses us from East Lombok, for example, our sponsor from Central Lombok or East Lombok, he made ID Cards from West Lombok " (TKW 2).

Based on the statement above it can be concluded that they had many times faces a problem but not deterred them to become TKW.

There is an element of prestige as the driving factor to become TKW, because they are ashamed to work in their home areas and fear of being object of the talk, thus becoming TKW is an honor for them. The findings are consistent with research conducted by Maresova (1999) which stated that international migration is a result of the demand for labor remains inherent in the structure of the economy of developing countries, where wages are not simply reflect demand and supply conditions but also affects the status and prestige .

The existence of indigenous cultural elements of Sasak blend with foreign cultures coming into the area, causing a change in the Sasak society both in terms of outlook and lifestyle, giving rise to a high demand due to the flow of modern society. Culture likes to imitate someone else's style, such as imitating the first comer gets a modern twist from their area of origin. Khandker (1988) mentioned that the pattern of patriarchy to be one determinant of the pattern of women 's participation is part of a tradition that is very strong. Schampers and Speckman (1992) mentioned that the activity associated with a woman who works out of the house or into the labor market, especially in developing countries is a survival household strategy that challenging and prone to violence .

4.4 . Kinship Networks Among Previous TKW

Driving factor is the other new findings on the decision to become TKW to Saudi Arabia is a kinship among potential TKW with previous TKW. Previous TKW provide the information required by prospective TKW about the condition of women, costs and how to departure and wages to be earned in the country of destination. This social network is very large influence on the decision to be a TKW, this is because of the desire to transform the economic condition of the family, like the previous TKW who go home with a variety of lifestyle changes and family economy. Stampini, et al. (2008) suggested that networks are migrating families and individuals experience prior to connecting with other individuals of the household characteristics are central to the decision to migrate. Taylor (2006) argued that international migration decision depends on network migration or relationship of family members and possibly their neighbors who had migrated earlier. This is because previous migrants can not only give money to people in the area of origin , but also provide information on how the migration procedure, a place to find work, a trusted agent, and the amount of salary that is likely to be accepted. Social and cultural conditions of a region can not be separated with the customs and kinship systems in the area. Customs control function for people in attitude and behave Sasak community in East Lombok become strong

followers of the teachings of Islam. In the region there is a center of Islamic organizations " Nahdlatul Wathan ", it shows that the religious values and customs are very attached to the people in the region. In addition, the culture of migration is a decision to be TKW select countries Saudi Arabia became the most sought after destination by the women in the district, because the country is an Islamic state. Most of the available labor market in the country is the informal/domestic labor market. The job demand by women in the workforce caused by low education so they can choose a formal job. Moreover, because the State Saudi Arabia adheres to a patriarchal system such as in Indonesia, the type of work is offered as a housekeeper who is day-to-day job is a woman and the nature of women, so it is easy to do without the need for higher education. The reason being the main considerations allow family members to become migrant workers to Saudi Arabia.

Communities in East Lombok regency uphold a strong tradition, making the people in the area have a harmonious relationship helping each other. Similarly, in the decision to become migrant workers. The previous TKW provides information on the state of the country that will be addressed such as cost, risk and type of work to be performed by the prospective migrant workers. Availability of this information has helped prospective migrant workers to decide to go to the destination country, as cited in in-depth interviews as follows:

"We like to be a TKW because my friends in the village already gone to Saudi they were succeed ... also there is a failure but we want to try " (TKW 1)

"Invited by friends " (TKW 2)

Based on the above revelation of TKW, there is the influence of friends and the environment that causes them to be attracted to be TKW. They see friends or relatives who had first set out to become TKW with behavior and lifestyle that is different from before, cause they are keen to follow them. They also get the information of jobs available in the country of destination along with the costs to be incurred at the time of departure from previous TKW.

For TKW who decide not to go, due to a variety of factors, including the husband who does not allow them to work abroad or there are problems in the management of documents and others, as expressed in the in-depth interview with one of the maids as follows :

"Want to go ... has been cancelled..... problem with passport" (TKW 3)

"Later, if allowed to go by my husband" (TKW 1)

Based on TKW statement above, it can be seen that they basically want to work abroad. But the problems caused not to become TKW. From the above it can be seen that the previous TKW have strong influence in motivating local people to choose to become migrant workers, in particular to the country of Saudi Arabia.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the above study, it can be concluded that the factors that influence the decisions of TKI to migrate to Saudi Arabia is the age, the number of dependents families, a sense of prestige to work in Saudi Arabia, and kinship networks with previous TKW. Although many risks to be faced but it s not reduce the number of migrant workers to Saudi Arabia. Government is expected to be involved in the recruitment of TKW conducted by the Indonesian Manpower Service Provider (PJTKI), so as not to commit fraud in the recruitment process such as to send TKW repeatedly under different names with falsifying his identity.

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