

International Migration, Remittances and Impact on the Locality of Origin

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to describe the various conditions that background household workers who are motivated to migrate international; sending remittances to their home town and the impact of migration international TKI on social, economic, and culture in the area of origin. The approach of the research is quantitative approach. collecting data with interview techniques. And. inept interview / in-depth interviews to sharpen and enrich the information phenomenon sosial. Analisis data with descriptive analysis and partial least square. The results showed that 1) demographic factors, social factors of economic and social factors driving the culture as a factor to the high motivation of international migration workers from the area of origin, 2) work environment factors and socioeconomic factors TKI abroad, which determines the high post remittance origin region 3) factors of migration and remittances that result in changes in social economic conditions, cultures in the region of origin.

Keywords: international migration; remittances diversity; remittances use; social change; lifestyle

Introduction

Poverty phenomenon generally is an encouraging factor for the migrant workers to work abroad. The phenomena are the limited access to work chance in domestic, as well as the low wage. Whereas, in overseas, the wage is relatively higher. The research location in two decades ago was an area which most of its people were poor; geographically, the research locations consist of two region which are (1) a region which most of the area is limestone mountains and less-fertile land, most of the people work in farming field who farm in a dry land, the average land ownership is lesser than 0.2 Ha, even there are some families who own no land at all (landless peasant); (2) a region which most of its region consists of rice farmland which is fertile; the land ownership is just the same with previous region, most of the population work in farming field yet the land possession is still lesser than 0.2 Ha as its average, even there are some households which do not possess any acre of land (landless peasant). The limited farmland possession could not fulfill their minimum basic needs; yet for those two regions, there is a similarity related to the hardship of finding job other than farming. Their side-job is only as construction labor or factory labor in Tulungagung city. On the other hand, the apparent difference between TKI households and non-TKI household is as most of the TKI households have better social economic strata. It shows from its permanent house building in modern style; this condition rarely appears on the non-TKI household. This circumstance shows that the remittance is used for many needs. Besides, the demographic characteristic of those TKI households based on the age are grouped in productive working age (15-49 years old). Therefore, as seen from the employment structure, those TKIs from this region are potential workforces. However, only in one decade that area have changed into a region which has various kinds of economic activity centers, the residential is well arranged and looks luxurious, the transportation and communication develop which make the economic runs. It is observable from the crowded and busy economic activities of the society. On the other hand, as the economic change gets better, it affects the behavior of the society, mainly for those TKI (Indonesian Labor) households in the origin region.

Therefore, a study which explains the phenomenon on the social, cultural, and economic aspects in a village as the impact of Indonesia Labor remittance utilization toward the change on social economic conditions in the origin region is an important thing. Therefore, this research is aimed to:

- a. Describe the conditions which underlie people to internationally migrate and work as Indonesia Labors abroad.
- b. Describe the conditions of the migrant labors abroad in the destined country which affect the remittance which is sent to the origin region after one or more members of the family work as migrant labors abroad.
- c. Describe the impact of remittance utilization toward the change on economic, social, and cultural conditions in the origin region.

Methods

This research uses quantitative design and survey approach. The population subjects are households which one or more of the household members work as international migrant The respondents are households which one or more of its members work as international migrant – which means that a household which one or more of its members do international migration and still being at the destined country during the research was conducted;

taking leave or going to their origin region for some certain time then go back to the workplace abroad; still waiting to go working again after their working period run out; preparing next documents to move or stay at the previous workplace; and those ex-migrants who have returned and won't go working at the destined country again who at the time being are still in the village. This research which centers on Indonesia Labor international migration and the impact of remittance utilization toward social, economic, and cultural conditions at the origin region chooses Tabulate Tulungagung as its research location. The sample taken from [Bungin term, 2003] is 250 people. The data collection techniques are interview and questionnaire. According to Brannen [1993, 2005], the reason to use deep interview in this research is to have deep study on the social economic phenomenon in Indonesian Labors' family at their origin region

Also, it enriches the data in understanding a social phenomenon and adds more qualitative information to the quantitative data, The implementation of the quantitative approach is in serial model, which the quantitative approach is conducted first, then followed by deep interview focused on profound examination related to the social cultural and economic phenomena as well as its impact on the TKI household at the origin which is not being able to be attained by questionnaire. The research location at Kabupaten Tulungagung is one of the largest TKI sources in East Java province. Therefore, it choice to chose this region is based on purposive technique which a location definition is chosen based on non-random technique (non probability sampling) since it is defined for certain considerations (Singarimbun, 1987). Geographically, it consists of three regions (1) mountains area which is called as dry area; (2) dry land region and wet land region which is called as mix-region, and (3) plain/flat region which is called as wet land area. Next, we take one *kecamatan* from each region- then, from each chosen *kecamatan* we take one *desa* (village) by a criterion of having highest amounts of TKI using purposive sampling. The villages (*desa*) are Desa Suko Rejo Wetan Kecamtan Rejotangan, Desa Betak Kecamatan Kalidawir, dan Desa Tanggulturus Kecamatan Besuki. This technique is applied to ease the sampling of the respondents which is done randomly (random sampling) for 250 respondents.

The data are analyzed descriptively (single and cross tabulations) and it uses partial least square (PLS) statistical analysis.

Result And Discusion

The Rate of International Migration from Origin Region

Migration rate as generally conceptualized is the percentage of the (Indonesian Labor) migrant number in a family compared to the total members of the family in productive age.listed at the following table.

Table. 1 Migration Rate per Households at Kabuptaen Tulungagung

Migration Rate (%)	Amount	
	Frequency	%
20 -40	163	65,20
40 – 60	80	32,00
> 60	7	2,80
Sum	250	100,00

Based on Table 1, it can be explained that the highest percentage of the migrant labors in a 20-40% household is 65.20%; the amount of the migrant labors in a 40-60% household is 32.0%; while the percentage of migrant labor in an above 60% household is 2.80%. This finding is interesting to observe since it the research location, for the 20-60% household, the migrant labors percentage is 97.20%.

There are three reasons which encourage and attract the household members to internationally migrate for working as Indonesian Labor *which are* difficulties in finding jobs, low rate of labor wage at the origin region, the high rate of labor wage at destined region. There two characteristics of Indonesian Labor which are demographical and social-economic characteristics. Demography characteristic of the household member who works as Indonesia Labor abroad are: most of the household member who work as Indonesian Labor at the potential age (20 – 49 years old), female is 63,6%, married is 81,1%, household load is more than 3 people. The social-economic characteristic of Indonesian Labor is most of the household members have Junior High School Education level and below, as well as unskilled. This condition is caused by most of them do not work, and it they are farmers, they do not have farmland so that they do not have income; they have average income which lesser than Rp 300,000 per month. Within this economic condition, it is not surprising that those people motivation to work abroad as Indonesian Labor is high.

Remittance

Those migrants provide quite high proportion of their income for remittance needs. Remittance mostly is sent through banking institution, through peer friends from the same origin region who by chance go home.

Table .2. The Amount of Remittance Sending of TKI Household at Kabupaten Tulungagung

TKI Remittance (Rp millions)	Amount	
	Frequency	Percentage
< 5	53	21,20
5 - < 10	108	43,20
> 10	89	35,60
Sum	250	100.00

The amount of the remittance to the origin region shows that 43.20 percent of the Indonesian Labors send their remittance to their origin region between Rp. 5 millions until Rp. 10 millions. Then, 35.60% of the Indonesian Labors send their remittance > Rp. 10 millions. The sent remittance amount comes from migrant labor who works in countries in Middle East region (Saudi Arabia), and Far East (Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Korea) and South-East Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam). Only 21.20% of the Indonesian Labors send their remittance to the origin region which is lesser than Rp. 5 millions; and this amount is the third highest percentage. Commonly, this sent remittance comes from migrants who work in Malaysia; and some of them are legal and some others are illegal Indonesian Labors. Other things to know are that the wage in Asian region is low; moreover for those illegal labors – their wage will be much lower than those legal labors. The Indonesian Labors who send remittance more than Rp. 10 millions is 35.60% works in Far East region such as Taiwan, Korea, and Hong Kong. Based the *tekong* (intermediaries) who the writer met in Kota Ngunut, the wage which is categorized high wage after The U.S. and Japan comes from Taiwan and Korea. For example, female Indonesian Labor who works as housemaid has standard wage as many as Rp. 6.5 millions per month. While for male Indonesian Labors who work in a factory, they can earn Rp. 15 millions per month not including their overtime payment. This income is far beyond the income of female Indonesian Workers who work as housemaid in Malaysia which only earns Rp. 2.5 millions – Rp 4 million per month. The highest amount of money transfer to the family at the origin region is Rp 57 millions and the lowest is Rp 1.3 millions.

The low and high of the remittance levels which are sent to the family at the origin region is determined by some factors such as working condition to where the Indonesian Labor work, and the social economic condition of Indonesian Labors at the destined country. If it is seen from the aspect of environment condition to where the Indonesian Labors work at the destined country, most of the Indonesia Labors are legal migrants; the spreading region of the destined countries are almost similar among the Far-East, Middle-East, and South-East Asia regions. The highest percentage is in Far East countries. If observed from the occupation, most of them work as housemaids, private sector employees, and construction and plantation workers. Indonesian Labors who work as housemaids mostly work in South-East Asia countries; while those who mostly work as private sector employees are in Far-East countries especially in Korea; housemaids, related to their relationship with the employers, never complain, which means that there is no problem. Next, the low and high of the remittance is related to the effect of the Indonesian Labors social-economic condition at the destined country. As seen from their income as Indonesian Labors who work abroad, most of them earn more than Rp. 10 millions per month – even the 20% among them earn more than Rp 20 million each month. Thus, it is not surprising that those labors send remittance more than Rp 10 million each month. As observed from the length of work years in abroad of the Indonesia Labors, more than 60% (which means most of them) have 5 to 20 years experience in working abroad. As noticed from the amount of the remittance proportion compared to the household income, most of household income (between 60 – 100%) comes from the remittance.

Remittance Utilization and Its Impact to the Origin Region

Remittance utilization by the household at the origin region are commonly vary. Simply, the remittance utilization is grouped in three categories which are paying debt category consumptive category, and investment category.

Table .3 : Remittance Utilization at Kabupaten Tulungagung

Num.	Remittance Utilization	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Consumptive purpose	109	43.7
2.	Investment purpose	105	41,8
3.	Paying debt purpose	36	14.5
	Sum	250	100.00

Remittance utilization shows that the highest priority of the remittance utilization (43.7%) is for consumptive stuffs, such as for building and maintaining house and buying household furniture, including electronics and automotive stuffs (motor cycle). It is acceptable since a house is a symbol of success for migrants as well as a social status enhancer. The remittance utilization for investment (land, jewelry, livestock, fishery, and savings) in the village is quite high (41.8%); yet is lower than the consumption needs. It is because, for the family in the origin region, the remittance not only has economic meaning, but more than that, it has deep

meaning since the family attitude toward family member who work abroad (migrant) to maintain the family relationship. The utilization to pay debt is 14.5%.

The effect of remittance utilization consists of three things which are related to the change on the economic condition, change on the social condition, and change on the cultural condition. The change on the economic condition at the origin region is the improvement on the household income. Most of the family migrant labors' (60%) has income above Rp. 7,500,000 and above Rp. 10, 00,000 per month. Most of the migrant labors work in Far-East region such as Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Some of them work in Middle-East region such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The impact of the better income for more than 60% population causes work mobility from agriculture to non-agriculture, from unemployment to worker. Therefore, it is not surprising if the better income, the migrant labors family in origin region experiences economic improvement. Thus, generally, it appears that most of the migrant labors' families in the origin region have left the former economic system by refusing to enter agricultural economics. It means that they have left agriculture sector (farming business), and move to other farming sector such as livestock, fishery, telecommunication service, retail, and other service sectors. The change on other social economic condition is related to children education. Children education is also an encouraging variable for them to work as migrant labors abroad. It appears that most of them very agree if the remittance money which is sent is utilized for the need of children education. The objective of them to be migrant labors, other than to fund their children education tuition is children can be the future investment for the parents, so that the children are expected to be able to "*mikul dhuwur mendem jero*" which means that the children later on can elevate the status of their parents. According to the statement from Mrs. S, a migrant labor (TKI) who works as a nurse in a Singapore hospital:

" Kulo niki nyambut damel, ingkang utami namung kangge sekolah anak, anak kulo tahun wingi nembe wisuda sarjana ekonomi jurusan manajemen Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, sak niki kiyambake kulo kapurih sekolah malih S2, dateng Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta jurusan Magister Manajemen , wingi nembe nyuwun arto kangge bayar SPP lan sanesipun kulo sukani kalih doso juta rupiah, showing her pretty daughter who wears graduation dress while continuing her conversation" mangke nek sampun lulus kulo kapurih nerusaken S3 kados panjenengan" pokokipun menawi kangge sekolah pinten mawon kulo sukani."

Mrs. Suwarti's statement means as follow:

"I work for my children to have them taking formal study. Previous year, my daughter has just graduated as Bachelor of Economics in Management Department at Muhammadiyah Malang University; now, I asked her to take her Graduate Program at Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta in Master of Management program. Just recently, she asks money for the tuition fee and other cost; I give her twenty millions rupiah" she was showing her pretty daughter picture wearing graduation dress, and continuing the conversation "anyway, for taking school, I give everything."

The similar tones were stated by many others informants; yet most of the respondents are young ages then most of their children are still sitting in primary until secondary level of educations, only few of them sitting at higher education. For instance, the daughter of Mr. Imam - who states the same sentence with Mrs. Suwarti's - is taking her college education in Tourism Department at Udayana Bali University in Denpasar Bali.

This condition appears on most of the people who agree (91%) that the sent remittance is utilized to their children who are sitting at school event most of the parents are in elementary until senior high school level of education; only a few of them has higher education level.

As observed from the social change condition, it is the effect of the occurring change both materially and immaterially. The material effect can be seen directly of physically; while the immaterial effect is seen from the change which is not materially measurable; yet, it can be observed in real at a group society, such as social structure change, social norm change, etc. The better income of a family because of the remittance causes women's status and role shifting, which initially the economic responsibility is handled by men. Recently, it is reversed; in bettering family wealth related to women status and role, women have equal position with men in elevating family wealth. These social values are the factual background that women Indonesian Labors are greater than men. The other change in social condition is the change on the social stratification which in a household who one of the members work as Migrant Indonesian Labor, it changes not only the family life style but also changes its social strata which places them from bottom layer to one layer above. Before being a migrant labor, he did not possess farmland, have low income, and have non-permanent residential. Yet, after being a migrant labor, he is able to buy farmland, livestock, retail shop, luxurious home with completed furniture. Therefore, the improvement on the household economic life affects the family behavior at the origin region. The family behavior is a reflection or symbol of the social status and social layer/stratification of the family. Therefore, it not surprising if the behavior appears on the perspective of social strata change of the migrant labors family in the origin region, mainly the change on social status and social prestige in the society perspective as seen from the improving wealth, occupation other than agriculture sector, physical form of the house building, and the dressing style. On the other side, the immaterial effect (social effect) which comes from

the remittance utilization is also related to the shift on structure and function of family related to household task distribution system and the holder of the family leader position who is responsible of financing all of the family members. If one of the family members (husband, wife, or son/daughter) works abroad who will be responsible for the household tasks; since most of migrant families are young families, including on household decision making. Based on the talk of Mrs. R who refines her statement:

“ Sampun sekawan tahun bapakipun lare-lare kesah dateng Arab saudi dados TKI, sedoyo urusan runah tangga dados tanggung jawab kulo kadosto ngupokoro anak-anak ingkag taksih alit-alit, ugi mgupokoro iwen-iwen sapi, ngolah saben,. Menawi wonten tanggi utawi saderek ingkang sripah utawi wonten hajatan, kulo mingkang dateng makili bapakipun lare-lare. Mandar dereng dangu kulo ingkang mendet raport anak kulo ingkang sekolah dateng SMP “.

Mrs. R sentence means as follow:

“It has been more than four years my husband goes to Saudi Arabia becoming migrant worker. All of the household stuff becomes my responsibility such as keeping the little children to grow, feeding the livestock (cow), and farming. If my neighbor holds a ceremonial party or there is someone passed away, I come representing my husband. Event recently, I came to Junior High School of my children to attend the meeting and take the academic report of my children”

The impact of remittance utilization on cultural condition change occurs on the life style change, value and norm, family-relationship closeness and value of children. Based on the life style change, as the settler on the new social-economic strata, migrants tend to adjust their life style to the new strata. From the life style, it appears the biological, social, and emotional needs as the priorities for those migrants family as the reflection or symbol from the social status and social strata of the family. It is surprising then if the behavior occurs on the life style of the migrant labors family at their origin region, especially on their food consumption pattern. It shows a significant development since in a week there are times to consume food which fulfill the health standards; it is also observable from the often frequency of them to eat outside on each month. For the dressing style change, it happens as most of the family members who previously have not less-vary dressing style become very various dressing style. It means that previously they did not quite care and did not adjust their dressing style to a certain social condition or situation in their daily life. At a certain event, their dressing style is just the same with another certain situation. It also means that they did not wear different dressing at one to another social event; they start to care about or adjust their dressing style to the various social situations in their daily life. Based on the life style change on the house building, it shows significant change as some of the houses (91.6%) of the migrant Indonesian Labors at the origin region have changed. It is revealed on the physical shape of the building. Physical shape or house model of some of their houses are quite luxurious, modern, added by beautiful garden just like house models in big cities such as in Surabaya. Most of the migrant Indonesian Labors' homes have been renovated. Almost the houses' entire floor is made of ceramic; event the front wall layered with ceramic. The specific characteristic of the migrant Indonesian Labors house is seen from the gypsum variation, shape of the terrace which uses concrete structure. This is normal if the remittance utilization is allocated for residential needs including the furniture since it is a symbol of success for the migrants as well as elevates their social status in their society.

On the other hand, the improvement on household income, the social status and stratification is generally known that it makes social-cultural change, especially the change on the value on social norm in the origin villages of the migrant labors since many of the people migrate abroad. The changes are in custom and tradition, social participation, moral ethic, and decreasing religious faith. Related to the change on children value, they do not agree any longer with the idiom saying that the more children you have, the more fortune you get. Most of them (94.0%) very disagree and disagree. They feel the very heavy load of the children, centrally for the education tuition which is so expensive. Therefore, their perspective changes. The amount of children is no longer perceived as production factor, but reversely it is an expense which is stated as consumptive factor. Based on the researcher observation, their children are two until three in average. They do not want to be what their parents are previously.

Factors which Affect Migration Rate

Demography factor is a factor which has quite strong correlation with migration rate; mainly for the household load factor. The high household they should bear is a consideration to take as he decides to migrate mainly if their family members are not labor force. This assumption is strengthened by Leuwol statement (1988:56) that the dependency ratio is one of the migration encouraging factors related to the amount of the children they have. Biological factor, such as young age is easier to find job abroad since the vacancy chance is higher as well as its salary. The higher the village society aspiration about education, the more migration rate will be. The length of work as migrant workers also elevates migration rates. Supporting [*Mobogunje's* theory, 1970], Pull and Push theory of [*Lee*, 1987 and Migration Law / *Ravenstein* theory, 1987].

Other demographical factor which is assumed to be able to influence migration rate is marriage status.

The main motivation to work abroad is to elevate family's economic condition. Those Indonesian Labors who are not married yet generally work abroad because of the limited vacancy number available at their origin region. This research, it also finds that some of the Indonesian Labors, especially at the young age, go working as Indonesia Labor after some days of weeks of their marriage. They generally do not have settled job/ full-time job before married; therefore after getting married, they find hardship to finance their family life. This becomes foremost motivation for new young couple to separate since the husband should go working abroad.

Numerous young couple whose the husband go abroad to work causes several women to live alone which is termed as *Jamal* (*janda* Malaysia/ Malaysia widow), *jarab* (Arabia widow), *jawan* (Taiwan widow) etc. Therefore, it is not surprising if it causes many cases since there are a lot of widow who never receive the sent remittance from her husband; even, some of them do not receive any news. Thus, most of them initiate to ask for divorcement complaint, and then remarry to another man. Since most of the migrant labors' wives are young age who more than 50% of them below 30 years old. This kind of case does not appear only in the origin region of the migrant labors, but also in the region to where the migrants work. Many of the husbands secretly marry other migrant labors abroad. Many other cases related to divorcement and affairs both which are done by husbands or wives who work abroad, or in the origin region. Even, some of them have children also.

The high rate of women mobility doer indicates that there is a shift on the women's role in household. If in the two decades ago, the paternal culture which says that men (husbands) are responsible to their family. This is because the poor condition of the society; as direct and indirect impact of the social, economic, and political changes during recent two decades. It brings huge impact on the relationship between man and woman structure change which can be seen from the role and work load of women in the family on a village. Recently, women are not only responsible for their domestic task - but also have to "voluntary agree" to share additional task outside with the husbands – including seeking additional income sources other than their domestic responsibilities.

The low income of the respondent is the indicator of the respondent life hardship in the origin region. The low income of the respondent is also perceived to be one of the encouraging factors for them to decide to migrate abroad as Indonesian Labors- both legally and illegally.

Social-cultural variable which ties women to not go working by leaving the village tend to be no longer acceptable among the village society. The amount of female migrants is more than the male migrants. Though, the female migrant workers processes are more selective than for male; since the process to asking for excuse from her family and husband is not as easy as those males. The decision making in a family demonstrates relationship subordination between man and woman. This research proves that man domination in decision making which so far has been hold causes complaint from women's migrant family. The economic base of migrant women is one of the strength sources in negotiating the gender relationship.

The ability of Indonesian Labor migrants in abroad to access official service procedures is much affected by the education level, consideration sources to decide, and obtained information sources related the foreign country. The low education level makes the thinking ability and the insights which are hold by the international migrant candidates are very limited. Thus, to get an official and legal program is often late. There are some countries which define the minimum level of education for the labor candidate who will work in the destined countries. Often they are forced to take illegal path to be migrant Indonesia Labors because the low level of education they hold.

The interesting research result is that there is a priority scale to education tuition for their children or their brothers from the international Indonesian Labors' remittance. Much of the sent remittance is prioritized for education tuition. Families in the origin region do expect that their children are able to take education as high as possible. Such stated by Ibu Mahmudah, whose husband works to be a migrant Indonesian Labor for 6 years, that tells proudly if some of the remittance she gets from her husband can finance the school tuition at *Sekolah Perawat* (Nursery School) in Kediri for her child while she is showing the photograph of her child mounted at the wall of the guest room of her home. The illustration of Ibu Mahmudah story is only one of the examples that they are proud of and prioritize their children education from the remittance sending. For high education institutions, such as *MTs* (Islamic Religion of Junior High School level/ *Madrasah Tsanawiyah*), which are available in Kabupaten Tulungagung, the children or the brother of the migrant labors do not find difficulties to continue their education as high as possible, since at the nearest cities (Tulungagung and Blitar) there are also available education institution at higher education level.

The next social-cultural factor is the motivation of migrant labors to work abroad. Mobility behavior of the society is affected by macro and micro components. Based on the *macro structural* theory which is develop by [*Fawcett, 1989, Castles and Miller, 2003*], international migration is an outcome of the economic and social changes which then affect the decision making to migrate among individuals and families. Interesting to criticize that this phenomenon is relevant with the migration theory proposed by Everett Lee which is known as Push and Pull theory. Push-Pull theory which is introduced by [Everett Lee, 1975], the factors related to decision making process to migrate are: 1) factors at the origin region, 2) factor at the destined region, 3) intermediary obstacle, and 4) personal factor. Based on this theory, individual migrant as reflected in the personal factors (migrant

personal) defines the decision to migrate.

Factors Affecting Remittance

There are two focal factors which affect remittance; work environment of the migrant Indonesian Labors and social-economic condition of the migrant Indonesian Labors in destined country factors. The occupation of migrant Indonesian Labors is one of the environment variables which define the amount of the migrant's income, then at the end, also define the amount of the remittance. The next environment factor is the region to where the migrants work. The different region to where those migrants work has different wage standard to achieve. Many migrants work at certain country because of following or inviting by their relatives or friends who formerly are migrant workers. Just like the result of this research, many migrant workers who work in Malaysia and Taiwan are because of the role of their relatives or friends who work in those countries. Though, there are also some migrant workers who work at certain country for their own initiative or for the vacancy offering from the local PJTKI (*Penyalur Jasa Tenaga Kerja Indonesia/ Indonesian Labor Intermediary Service*).

Most of the respondents' family is migrant labors in Far-East region, especially in Taiwan; in South-East Asia, especially in Malaysia, and in Middle-East region, especially Saudi Arabia. The highest rate of migrant Indonesia Labors who work in Middle-East region is because in the countries at this region, it has higher wage standard compared to other region, respect the labor protection for human labors, especially in Korea; though in this country, it runs tighter rule as every migrant Indonesian Labors who work in this region must be able to speak Korean language.

The reason that most of the respondents' family work as migrant Indonesia Labor in Malaysia is that the near distance and low cost. Besides, to be migrant labors, the requirements are quite easy, even as an illegal worker is also possible to work in that country. Malaysia government limits the migrant labors in that country, so that it is difficult to work there, moreover to work illegally.

The next variable on the work environment labor of the Indonesian migrant labor in the destined country is the status of the migrant Indonesia Labor in the foreign country. The migration process of migrant labors in Tulungagung is just the same with the process in other region which consists of two paths: legal path and illegal path. The migrant labors who take legal path, based on the respondent, generally want to work in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Korea, which as far as they know, it must be through legal path.

The more migrant labors who utilize legal path is because of the certainty guarantee of the work in the destined country, the right of labors in destined country, also no fraud to worry from *PJTKI* or *tekong* (intermediary). This finding is relevant with the research result conducted by [*Triantoro, 1999*] about legal and illegal migration to West Malaysia which states that migrants from Nusa Tenggara Barat who take legal path are more than those who take illegal path.

Other than the environment variable, the social economic condition of the migrant labors in the destined country variable affects the remittance. The key social economic variable is the income of the migrant labors in the destined country. This condition is observable form the migrants' income in the destined country though the wage standard of each country is different. To explain, the monthly wage of the migrant labors in Taiwan is 15840 NT, in Hong Kong is 3860 dollar Hong Kong, in Malaysia is 500 RM, in Singapore is 350 dollar Singapore, and in Saudi Arabia is 600 Real.

Most of the Indonesian migrant labors who have the income < Rp 5 millions work in South-East Asia such as Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore, some of them work in Middle East region such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Next, Indonesia migrant labors who the income are Rp 10 millions up to Rp. 20 millions, most of them work in Middle-East region such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and some other of them work in Far-East region such as Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and only few of them work in South-East Asia region such as Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore. For the Indonesia migrant labors with the income of more than Rp 20 millions, most of them work in Far-East regions such as Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong, and some of them work in Middle East region such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The income of Indonesia migrant labors in the destined country is influenced by the region to where they work as well as the occupation and also the length of work in the destined country.

The length of work is important since the amount of the remittance which is sent by the migrant labors also depends on the wage standard at the each region to where the work as well as on the length of work there. Indonesian migrant labors who just work abroad in a short period tend to send lower remittance; yet, those who work in longer period abroad tend to send higher remittance.

The Impact of Remittance Utilization in Origin Region

The impact of the remittance utilization consists of the changes on the economic, social, and cultural conditions of the migrant labors household in the origin region.

The impact toward the change on the economic condition in the origin region is income improvement. Migrants' income is one of the crucial aspects which are often discussed in population mobility study. [*Lee, 1987*]

perceives this as the encouraging or pulling factor which makes the population migration from one region to another. The higher remittance flow which comes to the origin region, the higher the economic activity intensity is. It is possibly because of the better income of the population, which is at least will affect the consumption patten of the society in the origin region of those migrant labors. If previously the needs of the most people were only limited to fulfillment of the focal needs such as food; then after the better income which comes from the remittance attained from the migration activities, the need pattern shifts to the effort to fulfill non-food needs, such as transportation facility and clothes.

Another change on the the economic condition is the work mobility. In macro context, the reason for migrants to decide to leave their origin region are the high wage rate in the destined region, the low wage standard in their origin, and as they relied their life on the farming sector at dry land which had minimum production rate. For the micro context, the driving factor for individual decision making to leave his origin region is material wealth and the intention to look for a job in the destined region. Therefore, it is not surprising if as they migrate abroad, their family at the origin region experiences improvement in their economic condition. Commonly, most of the migrant labor's families in the origin region have shifted from the former economic system which they do not want to enter farming economic sector anymore.

Besides, their conception about occupation also alters. Farming occupation which initially was the economic base of the household is gradually left since it is perceived to be too hard to do and the generated profit is too small and incomparable with the hard effort they contribute. Migrant's families usually have some acres of farmland, but only a few of them handle the land themselves. It asserts that the material ownership is a symbolical expression which legitimates positive social mobility for migrant's families as the indicator of life successfulness. Economic success from migration choice means the shifting up of their social status and getting out from the traditional farming economic system as farmers.

The other effect of the social change toward the change on the social condition other than the status social condition and women's role shifting is that there occurs a social mobility. There is a common judgment from the society, that in a household when there is migrant labor in abroad among them, then a change will happen not only at the family life style but also the social mobility which puts them from the low group to one level group up. If they previously did not have farmland with low level income, and the house is non-permanent before being a migrant labors; then after they become migrant labors, they are able to buy farmland, livestock, retail store, luxurious home with complete furniture. Therefore, the improvement on household economic life will affect the family behavior in the origin region. The family behavior actually is a reflection or symbol of social status and a social mobility occurrence. So, it is not surprising if that behavior comes to the respondent's view toward the occurrence of social mobility at migrant labors' family in the origin region based on the respondent respond related to the change on strata and social prestige in the society's perspective as seen from the increasing wealth, occupation other than farmer, physical appearance of the house, and the changing dressing style. It reveals that most of them state that someone's social mobility happens because of the wealth, occupation, dressing style, and physical shape of their house; only few of them more agree that social mobility happens because of moral and ethic. Though, they also affirms that for this time being, the happening of the social mobility is not separated to the someone's performance, whether it is seen from the wealth, occupation, dressing style, and the physical appearance of their house aspects.

On the other side, [Setiadi, 2001] affirms that the reintegration process of the migrants to return back in the context of economic life who are burdened by the fact which is based on social restructuring process on material base. Migration behavior is surely can bring real material impact for society life and it makes them placed on the new middle social class and replacing the salary men group. Those who are involved in migration activity as female labors who go abroad commonly come from poor family class with limited access to economic. They then shift to middle class; and to legitimate being in the new class, they build house with full-ceramic floor and wall as well as choose modern style. Therefore, it can be ensured that houses in such design are migrant labors' houses.

Besides the impact on the change of social structure and social function, there is also an impact on the change of household task distribution pattern. In a migrant family which the role of family head is handled temporary by the wife, then the decision making authority for a practical activity is on the wife's hand. Moreover, the task distribution system also tends to change if in the family the one who work as Indonesia migrant labor is the husband (family head) or the wife.

Some expressions from housewives in migrant families demonstrate that the task distribution patten in the household do change since the family member, mainly if the migrant is the husband as the family head. The female as housewife goes to be migrant labors abroad. This change commonly is inevitable since previously, the task, role, and function of the father/husband as the family head/ wife as merely housewife is already quite much. Therefore, the task which formerly was handled by the husband/wife in routine will be distributed to the other family members after the husband/wife becomes migrant labors abroad. The simple examples which are revealed from some informants seem to be quite representative to describe the society or family condition of the migrant

labors in general. The remittance impact also affects the cultural condition change as seen from the change on the life style, value and norm, closeness relationship of the family, and children value.

[Zanden, 1990:277] stated “*A life is the overall pattern of living people evolves to meet their biological, social, and emotional needs.*” A better economic life of a family will influence the family behavior in the origin region. The family behavior actually is reflection or symbol of the social status and social strata of the family. Therefore, it is not surprising that the behavior appears on the life style of the migrant labors’ family in the origin region such as on the food consumption pattern which demonstrates significant development since one of the family members work as migrant labors abroad. This change can be seen from the increasing frequency on the food consumption and various kind of consumed food in the migrant labor’s family which seems to be related to the increasing income from the sent remittance of the migrant labor abroad. Besides, according to Mr. Susanto (*Kepala Desa*), better consumption patter of the family is supported by the availability of the needed product since by time to time the accessibility to the region is good already. Furthermore, Mr. Susanto states that: 20 years ago, the amount of *warung* (small food restaurant) and other food shop retailer was too few. Also, limited accessibility of the region as well as the transportation facilities and infra-structures at that time is perceived as the causal factor which made economic activity of the society is less-dynamic. Better income of the household is one the multiplier effects of the migration activity of the Indonesian migrant labors abroad. The income improvement makes a higher possibility for job vacancy and entrepreneur opportunity in the origin region of the migrant labors.

In the perspective of medical officers, as explained by one of the Pustu’s head (Puskesmas Pembantu/ Supporting Health Care Center) in the village that was researched, the improvement on the food pattern and frequency of the society since 1995 was related to the improvement on the knowledge and awareness of the society themselves concerning about the fulfillment of the basic needs and healthy life behavior. Also, some housewife informants admit that there is indeed an improvement on the food consumption menu quality in their daily consumption pattern. This occurs mainly in the family which one of the members work as migrant labor abroad. They confess that the food ingredient is bought from village market or Kecamatan market. Based on the development, it concludes that the family member’s life style as viewed from the consumption patter tends to change to better direction.

The finding on the other change of lifestyle is related to the dressing style of the migrant labors family members in the origin region. Most of them (72.7%) use various kind of dressing style; they start to care about and adjust their dressing style to the various social situations in the daily life. It means that whenever there is social event, their dressing style will be different or altered.

The above-mentioned finding is different from [Amaludin’s, 1987] which shows that dressing style is not related to the farmland area they possess. The 66.6% of farmer household in the village wear almost similar dressing model in various situations. Other finding to observe is that there are some respondents who do not alter their dressing style as they work abroad; such as those who worked in Taiwan/ Hong Kong, during the deep interview they were still wearing improper dress such as thigh-up tight short pant and tight singlet shirt.

As one other social change resulting from the remittance utilization on the lifestyle shift is the change on physical appearance of their house.. This condition is supported by an interesting immaterial remittance. The ideas which are brought by the migrant labors are reflected on the house building’s shape and style. It can be viewed from the creation expression they have in building their house and the physical appearance of the house as well as the furniture. The building style is also a symbol of the family’s wealth level of the migrant labors in the origin region. Physically, the change on the residential building in the origin region of the migrant labors is quite remarkable in the last two decades. Most of new permanent houses in village are owned by a family which one of the member’s works as migrant labor abroad or ever became a migrant labor abroad. As we browse the sub-villages (*dusun*) in the origin village region of the migrant labors, we see permanent house buildings which people commonly call as foreign style house. This term is prevalent for the society. It is relevant for the society. Mr. Agus’ statement (*Carik Desa/ village secretary*) that two decades ago we would find difficulty to see a permanent house; yet, at the recent two decades, it is difficult to find non-permanent house.

In line with the Mr. Agus’s statement (45 years old), the *Desa Tanggul Lurus*, Secretary, Mr. Rofii and Mr. Selamat (religious figure and the head of LKMD) explain that before 1990, most of the society’s residential were semi-permanent houses and bamboo-made houses. Yet, since many of the society work as Indonesian migrant labors abroad, gradually those houses are changed and replaced by new permanent houses. The recent look is many permanent houses compared to the semi-permanent and non-permanent houses.

In addition to the permanent building of the migrant labors houses, those houses have reflected healthy residential equipped with bathroom, guest room, family room, and water closet facilities. Therefore, the change of the house building is complemented by the change on the society behavior. If previously, before those building became permanent house, most of the people took clean water at public wells, *perigi*, or springs, and rivers. But, since some recent years, most of the people have built their own wells, even build artesian well.

Toward value and norm in the society. This condition appears on the change on value and norm which

are related to the custom and tradition especially in the wedding ceremony and funeral ceremony. The deep interview result reveals that there is no change, it just like years ago. There are pre-wedding ceremonies such as *siraman*, *midodareni*, etc; though nowadays there are some people who want simpler ceremonial events by establishing wedding ceremony only in a mosque/ house which then continued to the reception event. For the funeral ceremony, there is also no change; it is a treatment on the dead body, *tahlil*, and seven days *yasinan*; three days remembrance, seven days remembrance, fortieth day remembrance, and annual *khol*, as well as a thousandth day remembrance. Yet, for birth ritual there are some changes- even it has changed at all – since during the birth rate there is a *selamatan* by delivering food to their neighborhood (Javanese term: *brokohan*); but, there is no other ritual such as *nedak siti* and the kinds after that ritual. During one recent decade, the social activity or community service tend to shift, since the change from kiship pattern to individual pattern. It can be seen from some social activities such as building religious facility, traditional feasts activity, and the kinds. In such activities, there is no society involvement related to kinship relation but individual and as the part of the society themselves. Thus, it can state that the changing component is at the base to determine the involvement of someone in social activity. This change is quite fundamental and affects other social activities. The social-communal aspect changes to economic and efficiency considerations when the social dynamic is occurring. Also, a productive work aspect becomes more important compared to social relationship aspect and other social relationship patterns. The kinship becomes economic and materialistic approach.

For the change on value and norm, especially the degeneration of moral ethic at youth generation is so vary. Some people express that moral ethic behavior of the youths has much shifted, especially on their politeness behavior. It deviates. Respect to older people becomes lesser. The closeness on the family relationship become a focal topic to discuss since it is assumed that since one of the family members work as migrant labors abroad.

The impact of remittance toward the change on cultural condition is that there is a change on the perspective in children value in the origin villages of the migrant labors after many of them migrate to overseas. Before working as Indonesian Labors abroad, in the research location who the majority people were farmers and labor farmers, there an expression which states that children are production factor, so the past tendency was the fertility rate was high; the idiom that says “the more children you have, the more fortunes you get” is quite fair. Yet, during the last two decades, since many of the society who became migrant labor abroad come back to their origin, there is a shift on that idiom which makes it is no longer popular. Even though that idiom is not chief cause of the shifting view on the children value in the origin region of the migrants, it has contribution to the happening change.

Conclusions

Based on the discussions above, it concludes that:

1. The characteristics of Indonesia Labor migrants who are from Tulungagung are as follow: (1) demography aspects, mostly at the potential age, married, high household load, and female. (2) Social economic aspect, coming from poor farmer family (farmer labor and merely labor). Most of them do not posses farmland, unemployment, do not have income, and low wage. (3) Social-cultural aspect, most of them hold education level below Junior High School level, unskilled, and have high motivation to migrate. This finding support the Push-Pull theory of Everet Lee which states that the positive/negative factors from the origin region such as expenses, potential age, marital status are the pushing factor to look for a job abroad for the household welfare; yet, it weakens the Reven Stain’s theory which states that women prefer to migrate to surrounding area since most of the TKI (migrant workers) are women who migrate in remote are to Middle East, South-East Asia, and Far East countries.
2. The remittance rate to the origin region is affected by: (1) work environment aspect to where the migrant labors work, mainly by the migration status of the migrant labors in foreign country and the occupation of the migrant labors, (2) social economic aspect of the abroad migrant labors abroad and the region to where they work. Besides, the remittance utilization has shifted which initially it was consumptive then becomes productive. This finding confirms Everet Lee’s theory that the positive/negative factor of the origin region can be interpreted as the remittance flow to the origin region is affected by the workplace condition and migration status of the migrant workers (TKI).
3. The impact of remittance utilization is: a) impact on the economic condition change in the origin region is the improvement on the household income of the migrant labors’ family; b) impact on social condition change consists of the change on the status and the role of women in improving family wealth, social mobility from poor to rich. c) Impact on remittance utilization toward cultural condition change consists of four things such as life style, consumption pattern, dressing style, and house’s shape changes, value and norm, the closeness of the relationship in the family and children value. This finding can be accommodated in migration law theory. Revestain states that each of migration flow causes backflow. The backflow can be interpreted as the economic remittance in the form of money or goods, social remittance in the form of idea,

knowledge and cultural remittance in the form of work ethic, life skill, and behavioral changes).

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