

## **The Impact of Remittances on Children's Education in Jungkat Village, Mempawah Regency**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The income of Indonesian workers sent to their families in their hometown will affect changes in the economic conditions of the families of Indonesian workers in terms of education. This study aims to determine the effect of remittances made by Indonesian workers who work abroad on the education of their family members in the area of origin. This study aimed to determine whether Indonesian workers who work abroad are aware of the importance of using remittances as the fee for their family education. As education is a basic need and benefits the improvement of the education of the nation's children. This research used qualitative research methods with data taken from Jungkat Village, Mempawah Regency. This study showed that most Indonesian workers in the village work to earn a living and provide appropriate education to their family members. In addition, remittances allow families in their hometowns to easily receive the salary given by Indonesian workers abroad. However, there are also disadvantages for those Indonesian workers who send remittances, as families and communities do not know each other that well.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Globalization is a world phenomenon that is the biggest factor in the creation of migration due to the opening of opportunities to carry out activities such as work which is currently done by many Indonesian people. There are no restrictions on finding work both in national and international reach which makes open opportunities for people to migrate in terms of finding work. According to Everett S. Lee in (Erlando and Pratomo, 2013) Migration is the movement of a person either permanently or temporarily. It does not apply how far or close the distance traveled, as well as the goals to be achieved such as for the purposes of finding work and other needs. One of the causes of migration is the gap in the area where they live and the drive to improve financially and obtain better jobs than before.

It also said several factors that influence the decision to migrate, and the migration process are, factors related to the area of origin, factors related to the destination area, obstacles to intervention, and personal factors. In addition, in most developing countries, including Indonesia, people seek to obtain better economic opportunities by migrating elsewhere within the country or abroad. When migrants will send a portion of their income either in cash or goods to support their families, these shipments are known as remittances. Remittances are also among the second largest external financial inputs in the Indonesian economy. It is inseparable from the large services of Indonesian migrant workers because they have provided remittances to their families in Indonesia. Remittances themselves are different from the income of ordinary domestic workers. Because of migrant workers, Indonesia participates in increasing foreign exchange, which is large enough for the country's economic growth.

Primary family needs such as education, which is important for future survival, need to become an Indonesian workforce where the results obtained abroad are greater than at home. This resulted in a large number of workers being sent abroad. With so many workers going abroad, the government provides ease of transactions, namely with Remittances. Remittances are remittance activities from abroad to the country and vice versa. Which makes it easier for workers or families to make transactions.

Remittances themselves according to (Adams & Cuecuecha, 2010) are the activities of someone who works in urban areas or abroad in sending money and goods to families in their home country. According to (Bank Indonesia, 2009), remittances are the income of Indonesian workers sent to their relatives in the area of origin. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Indonesian Migrant Workers are all Indonesians who want, are or have worked and earned income outside the territory of Indonesia.

Indonesian Migrant Worker Remittance is the activity of sending money from Indonesian Migrant Workers who are abroad for one year or more to family members in the area of origin. Remittances in Indonesia play a very important role because for developing countries like Indonesia, remittances are one of the main sources of income that will be used for investment in education. Remittances and the field of education are two elements that are interrelated because most of the remittances are widely used for education, especially in developing countries. Many studies provide convincing evidence that remittances have a positive relationship with education, especially since remittances provide additional funds for households, allowing households to increase consumption in family development. The number of remittances sent by migrant workers in 2009-2020 has decreased quite drastically. This decrease was caused by the COVID pandemic in 2020 which sent many Indonesian migrant workers abroad to return to their areas of origin, which had an impact on decreasing the number of remittances of migrant workers (BNP2TKI, 2021). In Bank Indonesia data, Indonesia's remittance receipts are still low compared to other Asian countries. Even with the number of Indonesian workers reaching 4.6 million people, Indonesia should be more than other countries. In Bank Indonesia data, remittances sent from Indonesian migrant workers abroad amounted to IDR 33 trillion in 2021 and have increased compared to the previous year of IDR 2.26 billion.

The use of remittances is widely used by Indonesian workers for various needs, one of which is to meet the educational needs of their family members. As education is an important need and

will provide positive benefits for increasing the education rate of the nation's children. In Indonesia, studies on the impact of remittances on education show a positive impact. The increase in the number of children who use remittances has many factors for children's activities at school, therefore, in addition to knowing the distribution of remittances, the writers also want to know the aspects that affect the field of education. Many Indonesian workers also use remittances to satisfy their consumptive desires by spending income on their secondary needs. Because consumptive needs produce profits faster, unlike sending children to school or saving. These consumptive things only provide satisfaction or benefits within a short period and cannot benefit in the future, unlike saving and supporting family members in the field of education.

Regardless of how much benefit educational attainment has in the long run, short-term gains have a greater chance of being selected. Therefore, this study aims to determine whether Indonesian workers who work abroad are aware of the importance of using remittances as education costs for family members of workers in Indonesia, especially in Jungkat Village, and discuss several problems that will be discussed in this study, namely, the influence of Indonesian Labor remittances in the field of education in Jungkat Village, Mempawah Regency, whether there are differences in the quality of children's education from remittance recipients, and how the impact of remittance senders on closeness with family members.

In this study, the author used two previous studies as a reference. There have been several previous studies that have previously been conducted. First, the author took a study written by Mouline Paramitha Bougas in 2016 entitled "Analisis Alokasi Penggunaan Remitan Untuk Pendidikan Anak (Studi Kasus 10 Kecamatan di Kabupaten Malang)". In this study, the research method was a quantitative approach based on positivism with purposive in 10 districts of Malang Regency. Data collection research techniques with descriptive analysis using cross-tabulation and processing data results using the probit method. There are several differences between previous research with this research the previous research used quantitative methods while in this study the writers used qualitative methods. In addition, the different research locations in previous studies were conducted in Malang Regency and this research was conducted in Sambas Regency. There are also similarities in previous research with this study, namely researchers of Indonesian workers and their families. As well as discussion makers in the field of education. The results of this study found that remittances have a positive effect and support improving education, but there are still many people who prioritize consumptive needs. The second is research by Faniza Widya Pangestu and Agus Joko Pitoyo in 2015 entitled "Pemanfaatan Remitan Tenaga Kerja Wanita untuk Pendidikan Anak di Desa Jangkar, Kecamatan Temon, Kabupaten Kulon Progo". There is a difference in the location of the study where the previous research was conducted in Kulon Progo Regency while this research was conducted in Mempawah Regency. In addition, unlike this study, which focused on all genders, the study only focused on the female workforce. The similarity between the previous article and this article is that both cover the field of education and use interview techniques in finding data to be used. The results of this study indicate that female labour remittances meet in terms of education; however, many factors cause children's unwillingness to continue their education. Therefore, the writers chose these two articles as a reference in writing this article.

## **METHODS**

In this study, the author used descriptive qualitative research methods with a case study approach. Creswell (2016) said that a case study is a research strategy where the research investigates carefully about an activity, process, or group of individuals. The reason the author uses this research method is to make it easier for the author to identify problems that focus on the topic of remittances and make it easier to take data and find sources.

The data collection procedure used interviews and giving questionnaires to several Indonesian workers and their families living in Jungkat Village, Mempawah Regency through an online Google form. The indicators used in finding resource persons are twenty to fifty years old, have a family, are domiciled in Jungkat Village, Mempawah Regency, and someone who sends and receives remittances. There are three interviewees who are willing to be interviewed and meet the indicators set by the author. First, a family head who works as a mechanic in one of the plantation factories in Malaysia and has worked as a migrant worker for more than five years is willing to fill out the questionnaire that we provide online and together with one of his family members, namely his daughter who studies at Tanjungpura University, is willing to be interviewed directly by the author about the use of remittances and his lecture activities. Second, one of the heads of the family works as a workshop worker in one of the factories in Malaysia where he works to support his family in his home area. He is ready to fill out the questionnaire that we have given.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Remittances are activities to send income from the work of Indonesian workers who send their salaries or other income in the form of cash or goods to support their families. According to (Mafruhah et al., 2016) remittances are the delivery of salary income in the form of funds or goods from Indonesian workers to their family members in the area of origin as long as the worker is working at his place of work. The delivery of remittances by Indonesian workers is mostly allocated to the educational needs of their family members. Education itself, according to Law No. 20 of 2003, is a real and structured effort to create an environment of study and teaching so that students can improve their ability to acquire other skills.

The theory used in writing this research is the theory of migration by Everett S. Lee. This theory contains Lee's opinion about the factors of migration, one of which is the destination factor, which has a higher economic potential to find work and earn higher wages than the area of origin. The main impulse for someone to migrate is an economic concept that exists and is present because of differences in economic conditions in the area of origin. In addition, the high and low migration rate is driven by disruptions such as the cost of moving and means of transportation. Closely related to remittances due to the factor of migration in Jungkat Village comes from the economic drive to finance the education of their family members because they want to earn more income than they get while working in their home area.

Some of the benefits of remittances are that they can improve the welfare of recipient households by facilitating consumption and improving living conditions. Remittances can facilitate human capital by enabling improved conditions, healthier lifestyles, decent health care, and better educational attainment. Remittances can ease credit constraints for unbanked households in poor rural areas and reduce poverty. It also focuses on acquiring basic and higher-level skills for a

sustainable standard of living in society as well as building and improving educational infrastructure. Aware of the importance of education in community development.

The large number of Indonesian workers working abroad is due to the lack of jobs which fit the skills of the surrounding community. It is not because our society is not skilled with their skills but the number of job vacancies that do not match their skills. But abroad many job vacancies are open. Despite the risks posed by migrating, for many people in developing countries with middle and low economies, migration is an opportunity, especially through remittances from migrants. These remittances allow resident households to exclude them from necessities. Countries that include many Indonesian migrants are Malaysian countries such as some Indonesian Workers in Jungkat Village.

Remittances given to migrant workers for their families are widely used for daily needs, sometimes also for consumptive activities. Remittances are also used by many migrant families in the field of education for their children or other family members. Some heads of families in Jungkat Village who are migrant Indonesian workers every month send remittances to their families to pay for their children's education. One of the heads of households in Jungkat Village said that their reasons for seeking work abroad or migrating were the higher wages or salaries given by foreign companies compared to companies in their neighbourhood. Many job vacancies match their skills, such as factory labourers and factory mechanics. The remittances are used for several educational support needs. The needs to support education are such as tuition and school fees, buying school equipment, school uniforms, school transportation, and others. So, the influence of remittances in several families in this village has a positive impact on allocating remittances in the field of education because thanks to these remittances they can continue the education of their family members.

From the data we collected, access to remittances is currently better than a few years ago. In the past, migrant workers needed the help of people or intermediaries to send and exchange their income salaries into rupiah for a long time, but now workers can easily use online banking which can easily transfer their salaries and convert them into Indonesian currency, but with a large administrative fee. One of the family members of remittance recipients believes that guidance and direction are needed for the families of Indonesian workers in the area of origin to further develop the remittances obtained by utilizing them properly such as using them in the field of education.

The families of Indonesian workers who work abroad admitted when asked that their closeness with their families is fine despite the long distance that separates them. Because in this era there are many ways of communication such as telephone, chat, and video calls. Therefore, they have no worries about the estrangement between their families even though they live in different countries. Although sometimes it is hindered by a bad telephone network, it does not last long so it is not too problematic. Therefore, they have no worries about the estrangement of relations between their families despite different countries. Although sometimes hindered by bad phone networks, it does not last long, so it is not too problematic. However, one of the heads of the family admitted that he was a little unfamiliar with many neighbors and people around him in his home area anymore because he had been migrating abroad for a long time. Lack of socialization is one of the causes of lack of friendliness with neighbors and people around him. It is known that

some Indonesian workers in the village have been migrants working in neighboring countries for more than five years, some have even worked from graduating from final high school until now.

Remittances can have a bad influence if not managed properly by the recipients. Such impacts can foster dependence between the receiver and sender, putting pressure on the sender and worsening their living conditions. Therefore, one family member of the remittance recipient said that the need for guidance and direction for Indonesian workers and families in their home areas to further develop the remittances obtained by being put to good use, such as using them in the field of education and not using them for consumptive things, is not useful for a long time. And they hope the remittance process will be faster and easier. Because low-income families need well-regulated guidance and access so that remittances can be relied upon and used, to ensure that they are used wisely and get benefits tailored to the needs of remittance recipients.

Previous studies find a positive impact of remittances. Such as an improvement in optimal conditions for the education of children in the household. In some studies, the opposite is said that children who receive remittances from their parents are different from children whose parents do not earn income with remittances. Research by McKenzie & Rapoport in (Hu, F. 2013) found that parents who send remittances or work as migrants receive less attention from their parents because they are far from supervision, which results in them not focusing on school and even dropping out of school. Because remittances are seen as payment for money and resources that have been invested by migrant families for the education of family members with a negative impact on the absence of parents in the area of origin who are unable to provide some support to family members. The absence of one or both parents can negatively affect children living in such households, it can result in a child's motivation to learn decreases and the desire to succeed academically is lost when important family members do not accompany them.

The research is certainly refuted by evidence that some children in Jungkat Village with parents who are migrant Indonesian workers who are still in school up to the college level with parental supervision who certainly accompany their children although not forever. Because Indonesian workers who go abroad have a strong and definite goal, which is to provide for their families and support their families in the field of education. This study is also refuted by another research by Edwards & Ureta in (Karymshakov & Sulaimanova, 2017). The effect of sending remittances from parents on education has a positive impact on children's education. Where they found that remittances from abroad had a positive impact on students' study time at school. Because parents think that encouraging their children to continue their education is more important than entering the workforce at a young age without knowledge and a school. Because parents think that encouraging their children to continue their education is more important than entering the workforce at a young age without knowledge and a school diploma.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of research on Indonesian workers and their families related to the effect of the use of remittances on children's education in Jungkat village, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Remittances make contribute to helping the education of the children of Indonesian workers in Jungkat village. And remittances have important indicators or benefits in the life of community education for recipients because they can provide support for their family members in continuing their education.
2. Indonesian workers and their families are also aware of the importance of studying and using some of their remittances in the field of education. The informants have explained in the research that the use of remittances is made to facilitate delivery in meeting the needs of families who are in the country. Labour decisions in making remittances affect the smooth continuity of family life. Where if there is still no remittance, the workforce must send manually, which is a longer and less efficient delivery, while the existence of remittances may experience better updates every year.
3. Also based on the results of the study, there is no difference between children who use remittances to pay for education costs and those who do not use remittances in terms of learning in class. Difficulties faced in the social field are in the lack of communication and socialization with the community of origin due to distance. The length of time that Indonesian workers have worked abroad can be calculated to be more than five years, and there are even Indonesian workers who have worked as Indonesian workers abroad since finishing high school until now. In addition, sending remittances to families in the area of origin has been resolved with the existence of online banking despite the considerable administrative costs.

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