

CHAPTER IV

Conclusion

The main topic from this research is the policy of Shinzo Abe to overcoming the demographic issue of aging population in Japan. This research tries to prove that the aging population in Shinzo Abe's administration is a crucial issue that it must be addressed immediately.

An aging population is a demographic issue experienced by Japan, namely an increasing number of aging populations and low birth rates. Japan began experiencing an aging population in the 1980s after the baby boom. However, the Shinzo Abe period is the peak of an aging population which shows Japan is in the highest position for ages 65 and above. The aging population and low birth rates occur due to several factors such as high life expectancy, high mortality rates, low marriages, and workaholic culture. This has harmed the Japanese economy. Because of the imbalance of productive age and the age of the elderly, there are several impacts, such as increased retirement and health funds, and labor shortage. The impact of this lack of labor can cause economic growth to be unstable or in a stable position.

According to Hans J. Morgenthau, the population is one of the most critical elements in a country to become a stable country because the population is the primary key of a country to continue producing. Therefore this issue must be addressed immediately for stable economic growth. Shinzo Abe in his government has sought various ways to overcome the effects of the aging population listed in the third part of "Abenomics" namely growth strategy. The "growth strategy" policy includes several policies on population aging. In the face of an aging population, Shinzo Abe made two policies, namely domestic and foreign policies. In domestic policy, Shinzo Abe implemented three policies, namely womenomics, robot policy, and family policy. The Womenomics policy is to encourage women's participation by up to 30% in the employment sector by balancing career and household life. In balancing women's lives between careers and households, the government made several efforts such as improving childcare facilities, providing career promotion levels and providing flexible working hours. This aims to

encourage the birth of children as well as to fill the vacancy of the workforce. The two robots policy is a policy to encourage productivity by using robots. Because as a state of the advanced technology industry, Japan must be able to utilize existing technology to encourage Japanese economic growth. Robots will be used in various labor sectors. However, the government prioritizes the use of robots in the construction and health care sectors. The use of robots in the health sector is to maintain or care for the elderly population that continues to increase. Then Family policy is a policy to encourage birth rates by providing several benefits for those who have children. This domestic policy is a long-term policy in overcoming aging population.

Because of the severe shortage of labor, Japan needs a foreign policy as a short-term policy. In overcoming the aging population of external Shinzo Abe made a policy to open the door for immigrants. This policy is a short-term policy in overcoming labor shortages. As is known before, Japan once used immigrant labor as a solution to get cheap labor. However, in the era of Shinzo Abe, immigrant labor was used to fill the various sectors of employment caused by population aging. The use of immigrant labor to encourage Japanese economic growth is included in Revitalization strategy. Despite being in a labor crisis, the government remains selective in choosing immigrant workers.

In opening up large-scale labor for immigrants, Japan offers several benefits for immigrants such as high-skill workers who get the privilege of their partners working and getting to bring parents under certain conditions. Technical internal training is given full protection so that it is not used as a low-cost worker. Whereas for nurse and care workers, scholarships will be given for their education. By providing several benefits for immigrant workers, the government hopes that there will be many immigrant workers who will enter Japan.

This research has shown that the Aging population is a very crucial issue for Japan that must be addressed immediately. Through domestic policy and foreign policy, it can be seen Shinzo Abe's efforts to overcome the aging population. In the study of International Relations, this research issue is relevant to do because

the demographic aging population issue will affect international security because this leads to the strategic integration of military, political and economic facilities in pursuing the ultimate goal of the State in the international system. Furthermore, the policy taken in overcoming an aging population in the short term is foreign policy involving outside actors. Foreign policy is taken based on what happens in domestic countries. So that foreign policy has also become a tool for the state to pursue national interests, where aging domestic problems are addressed in the short term by opening the door for immigrants to fill the labor shortage. So it is a formulation policy to resolve an aging population not only by internal actors but also by external actors. So that the issue of the aging population relevant to an international study on social security, foreign policy, and immigrant policy

Nevertheless, this study still has several disadvantages. First, data that explains the participation of immigrant labor in the field fills the vacancy of the workforce. It is difficult to find books or journals that explain and analyze individually the data that is provided. The data used is limited to secondary data found from several official websites, electronic news, and journals that are explicitly explaining the detail of foreign policy effort. Second, regarding the time limitations that affect the results of this study. This is because the researcher could only analyze the foreign policy toward immigration in the short term and ongoing issues until this research was written.

In further research, it is recommended to examine further how effective womenomics policies, policy robots, and families are in overcoming the aging population. Then whether the use of immigrant labor is dismissed when the long-term policy has been effectively implemented, or the immigrant workforce is still used to fill certain job