

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY, PUSH AND PULL FACTORS OF INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA

A. The History of Development Indonesian Migrant Workers

Southeast Asia is a center for rapid growth. Interdependent agglomeration groups, Malaysia as a growth center for the generation, and Indonesia as a large workforce center triggers a mutually beneficial relationship. This explains the relationship between the attractiveness of workforce migration from Indonesia. (Sparke, 2014)

Malaysia reflects the complexity of international migration, Indonesian Workforce is no longer a phenomenon of migrating overseas citizens to work, but it has become a trend that makes the character of this nation often send its workers abroad. This is because employment in Indonesia is very limited, especially for low-educated people, they are willing to leave their country to try their luck with other workers. (Harahap, 1957)

International migration workers continue to increase along with the development of economic and international political life activities that make socio-economic dependence between countries. The higher the intensity of the relations between countries in various lives, the higher the interdependence between countries and in turn increases the flow of migration in various forms. (Zlonik, 1992)

Migration is a form of diversification process from a context of vulnerability. The lack of diversification potential in rural communities due to the lack of assets owned results in a rational choice for migrating and seeking a better livelihood. Simultaneous migration is drawn by the hope of finding something better elsewhere. (Ellis, 2000)

International migration in Indonesia is dominated by workforce migration abroad, although there is also a migration of foreign workers to Indonesia the number has not been significant. Foreign workers work more in multi-national companies that do require specialized skills and expertise that

are not sufficiently met by residents. Whereas Indonesian workers abroad are only as manual laborers with low wages, this is related to the limited employment opportunities in Indonesia and the availability of overseas employment opportunities with better income. Migrants who come from Indonesia and then they live in various countries will be referred to as Indonesian immigrants who are known as Indonesian Workers. The workforce is a population in working age (aged 15 years or over) who has the potential and can produce goods and services. (Sjahriful, 1993)

The workforce discussed here is labor from one country to another to get a better job and income because there are not enough jobs in their home country and they are unable to compete because of population density and limited education. Therefore they prefer to work abroad working as unskilled laborers with relatively higher wages than in the country. (Indonesia D. S., 2003)

There are several opinions regarding the understanding of Indonesian Workers. According to Article 1 part (1) of Law Number 39 the Year 2004 concerning Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers Abroad, migrant workers are every Indonesian citizen who is qualified to work abroad in a working relationship for a certain period of time by receiving wages. Whereas according to the guidebook of supervisors, Indonesian workforce service companies are Indonesian citizens, both men and women who carry out activities in the fields of economy, social, scientific, artistic, and professional sports and participate in overseas job training both on land, sea and air within a certain period of time based on a work agreement, namely an alliance between workers and employers verbally and or written both for a particular time and for an indefinite time which contains work conditions, the rights and obligations of the parties. With the existence of this work agreement, migrant workers will be better protected if later on the employer or the company where the migrant workers work "default" then the Indonesian migrant workers can determine according to the work agreement that has been made previously. (Ventyrina, 2015)

The history of sending migrant workers dates back to 1890 by sending migrant workers (contract laborers) to Dutch colonies such as Suriname, Caledonia. Began long before the independence of the republic, initially sending migrant workers was carried out by the Dutch East Indies government by sending contract workers to the country of Suriname, South America, which at that time was a Dutch colony.

At that time the Dutch government began sending a large number of contract laborers from Java and even Madura, Sundanese, and Batak to be employed on plantations in Suriname whose purpose was to assist workforce shortages in managing plantations due to African slaves working on Suriname plantations where they were freed on 1 July 1863 as a form of implementation of the politics of abolition of slavery so that the slaves switched professions and were free to choose the desired employment. (Asyarifh, 2015)

Indonesian workers in Malaysia which are the most significant exports of foreign exchange cash services for the Indonesian government need to be carried out efficiently and provide the necessary facilities and protection both at home and abroad as part of Indonesia's employment planning while taking into account the dignity and reputation of the nation and state. The sending of Indonesian workers overseas is mainly in the discussion of this study with Malaysia because of the many problems faced by Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia as a cognate nation and also having the same historical background in essence it must also refer to the policies and diplomacy of Indonesia's foreign relations with Malaysia which among other things was develop to increase friendship and bilateral cooperation in terms of protection and rights of migrant workers between the two countries that refer to the declaration and also not to be in accordance with the national interests of the two countries.

Research obtained from the Directorate of Socialization and Placement Institutions of the National Agency for Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BNP2TKI) stated that the Dutch government began sending large numbers

of Javanese, Madurese, Sundanese and Batakese contract coolies to work on plantations in Suriname due to the low level of the indigenous economy (Java) due to the eruption of Merapi mount and the overcrowding of the population on Java. The first wave of migrant workers sent by the Dutch departed from Batavia (Jakarta) on 21 May 1890 with the SS Koningin Emma Ship, and this long voyage arrived in Suriname 9 August 1890 with a total of 94 people consisting of 61 male adults, 31 women, and two children. From that time the Dutch East Indies government regularly sent migrant workers to Suriname. The sending of migrant workers to Suriname by the Dutch East Indies government ended in 1939 with a total of 32,986 people using 77 ships. (BNP2TKI, 2011)

Ironically, the sending of migrant workers continues after Indonesia's independence. However, this era the purpose of sending migrant workers spread began to shift to Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

According to Indonesian government records, in 2002 approximately 480,000 Indonesians migrated to find work abroad. Migrants who go to Malaysia get a job in the household sector (23 percent), manufacturing (36 percent), agriculture (26 percent), and construction (8 percent). More than two million Indonesians are working in Malaysia, but the exact number is difficult to verify because more than half are such as undocumented workers, without legal permits or work visa. (Graeme, 2012)

In the early days, there were three types of migrant workers migrating to Malaysia. First, the forced migration is migrant workers are forced to work in the plantation sector, road construction and other building construction. Second, contract laborers are migrant workers, are contracted to work for a certain period with severe sanctions if the worker decides to work. Moreover, the third spontaneous migration is migrant workers working in a plantation or building construction on their initiative.

B. Push and Pull Factors of Indonesian workers migrate to Malaysia

The theory put forward by Ravenstein, Lee, and Bogue is a series of methods that complement each other's pull factors and push factors underlying the migration or migration of people from one place to another. There is only a slight difference between Lee, Ravenstein, and Bogue, which is related to distance variables which according to Bogue's assessment of distance have relative properties and are not included in main intervening factors. Furthermore, Lee also stated that the migration flow also influenced by the obstacles between, for example, high moving costs, the topography of the area of origin and destination as well as limited means of transportation or high taxes to enter the destination. (Lee, 1978)

1. Pull factors

Migration from the country to the city has a functional relationship that is closely related to the industrialization process, technological advances, and other cultural changes that characterize the evolution of modern society in almost all parts of the world. Malaysia is a destination because it is geographically close to Indonesia. Especially since the past, there have been crossings at the boundary between the two countries. Until the 1980s the sending of migrant workers was carried out based on kinship, per person and traditional relations. However, after 1980, the government established regulations to regulate the sending of migrant workers because the government saw positive value and high economic value. (Mohamad Taufik, 2013)

Many factors are the causes of migrant workers migrating abroad, especially to Malaysia. An interesting factor that refers migrants to Malaysia, especially the most prominent is income in the larger destination areas, such as opportunities for better jobs, higher wages, working conditions, and better facilities, rapid industrial growth, as well as trade and exciting business. Examples such as in recent years, the high rate of migration of people from India as well as from other developing countries to the United

States, the United States, Canada, and the Middle East is due to better employment opportunities, higher wages, and opportunities to achieve standards higher life. The main hope of migrant workers is the most reason to look for capital in addition to fulfilling life needs, because in the area of origin the necessities of life and seeking capital cannot be performed. Higher income in the destination is their hope so that they can improve their social experience for the better. However, there are also migrant workers are interested in Malaysia to work while looking for cultural and entertainment activities, etc. (Hara, 2008)

Indonesia and Malaysia are allied countries that have a very long history. The similarity of the historical, cultural and social background of the community gives many advantages to the bilateral relations of these two countries. Bilateral relations embodied in the form of cooperation in various fields such as the economy, social, culture and education between the two countries are often based on these equations. Likewise in solving problems in good relations between the two countries, the allied spirit is the motivation to choose the path of peace in resolving it. It has become an open secret that Indonesian migrants important position to "strengthen" the political position of ethnic Malays through the Party United Malays National Organization (UMNO) especially after the inter-ethnic riots of 1969. (Liow, 2005)

Under the capitalistic development model, Indonesian workers become migrant workers in Malaysia due to their geographical proximity. Malaysia is the closest neighboring country from Indonesia, which opens up the possibility of male and female Indonesian citizens migrating and working in Malaysia. The purpose of the existence of Indonesian Workers, who abroad is one of the government's efforts in raising the country's foreign exchange. It can also improve people's welfare by reducing unemployment. (IOM I. o., 2010)

Industrial growth also results in an increase in labor demand in manufacturing and construction that cannot be

met by Malaysian domestic workers. Until the early 1980s, the scarcity of labor in the agricultural sector and the high demand for domestic workers among the expanding middle class accelerated the influx of migrant workers.

Indonesia is one of the most significant sources of labor in Malaysia, and the geographical location is the closest country, that is not too far from Indonesia, the ease of widely available transportation routes are relatively easy, cheap and fast. This convenience is also related to available transportation, either by sea or by air which makes migrant workers think that when they return to Indonesia, it is not too difficult and far away or as expensive as that of Saudi Arabia which is a country that is also in high demand for migrant workers. Other geographical factors are related to the weather in Malaysia. The weather conditions of Malaysia with Indonesia are relatively similar. There are only two seasons. (RI, 2015)

Malaysia relies on migrant workers from Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, and Vietnam to fulfilling labor demand. Indonesians are the largest group of foreign workers in Malaysia (83 percent) and have a long history of working in the neighboring country. Indonesian migrant workers fill the shortage of workforce sector created by Malaysian economic policies, to reduce economic inequality between Malay residents and ethnic Chinese, in 1971 Malaysia established its "New Economic Policy" which aggressively pursued export-oriented industrialization and expansion of the public sector. These policies resulted in the growth of job vacancies in the city and the massive migration of Malaysian villagers to the town. Industrial growth also results in an increase in labor demand in manufacturing and construction that cannot be met by domestic workers until the early 1980s, the scarcity of labor in the agricultural sector and the high demand for domestic workers among the middle class who are expanding is accelerating the influx of migrant workers. (Tjiptoherijanto P. , 1998)

Besides, Malaysian cultural factors are also one of the attractions of Indonesian workers in terms of religion and language that is not much different from Indonesia is the main factor that encourages migrant workers to work in Malaysia. Languages that have in common make Indonesian migrant workers have a mindset that does not need to bother with courses and even migrant workers can directly communicate with employers or the surrounding environment and can facilitate migrant workers to quickly adapt to the new environment because in psychology research the similarity of language will make them more able to survive in the land of people. It is different from other destination countries such as Hong Kong, Korea, and the Middle East. Some Countries have different languages from Indonesian. Besides, work without the need for a high educational background and a higher ringgit value than the rupiah is also a factor for Indonesian workers to choose Malaysia. So from that Malaysia is one of the leading countries the primary goal of Indonesian workers. Various ways they travel to be able to dredge profits in the neighboring country. (Tjokrowinoto, 1997)

Malaysia has enjoyed prosperity thanks to political stability in life-based on state and state. When independence in 1957, the Malaysian economy only relied heavily on the production of rubber and tin. The economic transformation that has been implemented since the 1970s has made Malaysia a modern country. The industrial process has made Malaysia complete with modern and efficient infrastructure and made Indonesian workers so excited to migrate there. (Malaysia L. P., 2016)

Malaysia is indeed charming especially since the implementation of the Basic New Economy, which was deemed sufficiently successful in lifting Malaysia as one of the New Industrial Countries (NIB) in Southeast Asia. Many migrant workers choosing to enter Malaysia through unofficial routes due to immigration through official employment agents can result in long delays in departure and

require convoluted bureaucratic procedures, while unauthorized management only takes a few days. Even though there is a higher risk of corruption and harassment because unlicensed labor agents, and a lack of protection if workers face problems with their employers or government authorities. However, Behind all that, there are many human rights violations committed against Indonesian workers. This happens because the opportunities that are open to Indonesian migrant workers are jobs of relatively low quality, which often creates problems of exploitation, oppression, fraud, etc.

2. Push Factor

Important factors that encourage Indonesian migrant workers to Malaysia can be broadly classified into four groups of them:

a. Economic Factors

Globalization has had a considerable impact on the economy. The globalization of the economy is currently being and is still going to continue an impact on the movement of people, goods and capital that can no longer be obtained limited by the dimensions of time and space. Regardless of the relevance of non-economic factors, most of the research shows that the primary motivation of Indonesian migrant workers is due to factors of poor economic conditions that are more rational, including the benefits and relative costs that are influenced by psychological factors. In general, population mobility is due to wanting to change living standards for the better by looking for and finding something new (innovative migration), or maintaining what they already have (conservative migration) But yes the two have the same target to get and improve the status of life.

Economic factors are the most significant factor driving people to migrate to leave their homes. According to economic characteristics, it is stated that some of the migrants who go to Malaysia due to

economic factors are those who are less fortunate with poverty because they do not own land, do not have the expertise, and also have no opportunity to do business in the place of origin of migrants. The lure of a big salary becomes a powerful magnet for some people who want to improve their social status in a short time (Meir, 1995)

b. Social factors

Push factors or things that force someone for various reasons to leave their place of origin and make it go to another location. Also, some of the ideas that encourage workers to migrate to Malaysia mostly because the difficulty of employment opportunities in the village, then the additional factor is for seeking capital because productivity in Indonesia is low, agricultural income is low, much agrarian unemployment, and underemployment makes some productive ages have job retardation, Lack of opportunities to be more advanced in work, run out of natural resources in the area and some migrant workers who experience natural disasters are considered as the fundamental factors that encourage migrants to Malaysia which can be categorized as a more prosperous or dynamic country with greater employment opportunities in finding better job opportunities in neighboring countries. (Hania Zlotnik, 1992)

In Indonesia, which is a developing country with a population explosion, the ratio land-man has decreased which resulted in a significant increase in the number of unemployed and underemployed. The introduction of capital-intensive production methods to the agricultural sector and the mechanization processes reduce the need for labor in rural areas.

The unavailability of alternative income sources (non-agricultural activities) in rural areas is also an essential factor for migration. The existence of a shared family system and inheritance law, which does not allow

the distribution of legacy, can also force many young men to move to cities to find work. Even the migrant worker's property sub-division leads to migration because the property becomes too small to support the family.

During the last few decades of the XX century, international migration workers have continued to develop into a choice for many potential migrants in various countries. The experience of many countries in the world shows that the use of international worker services (without legal and illegal dichotomies, documents and undocumented) which are increasingly carried out in order to fulfill the labor needs of various interests in traditional use of international labor services can also be seen as redistribution of labor as a consequence of increasingly rapid economic growth even in political, social and cultural contexts. This activity has yet created a strong influence on the pattern of global relations that are mutualistic among the related countries. (Todaro, 2005)

The rate of population growth and a relatively high increase in the Indonesian labor force is a significant problem, mainly associated with very rapid population growth, which is an average of 1.7 percent per year which places Indonesia as the fourth largest population in the world. Available employment cannot compensate for the ever-increasing pace of labor force growth. This imbalance between employment opportunities and the number of the workforce can result in intense competition for employment. Job seekers who are less competitive because of low quality forced labor must become unemployed. Therefore it is not surprising that unemployment in Indonesia is among others open unemployment, and the rest is underemployment. This number continues to grow along with the development of the population and workers which are not matched by the increase in employment, and there has even ever

been a narrowing of jobs due to the economic crisis. Even before the 1997 economic crisis, the rate of employment elasticity was quite high. The reduction of available job forces Indonesian Workers to migrate to look for life in other countries. (Praseto, 2012)

With the relatively large number of Indonesian labor migrants compared to the local population in Malaysia, it creates political, economic and social tensions. This is reflected with the reasons for the enactment of new immigration laws in Malaysia. In the book entitled: *A small history of Indonesian "petite histoire,"* written by Rosihan Anwar, Malaysians refer to Indonesian migrant workers as *Indon*, which means stupid, incompetent at work and tend to commit crimes.

Uneven development between villages and cities in various regions and population pressures that produce high land-human ratios have been widely recognized as one of the essential reasons for poverty which has caused large-scale labor migration from one location to another. This type of migration causes the movement of labor. Almost all studies agree that most migrants (excluding forced and sequential migrants) have moved to seek better economic opportunities. This is a fact that is accepted both in internal and international migration. Economic factors are the basis for motivating migration to be further classified as 'Pull Factors' and 'Push Factors.' The high level of population density in Indonesia and the minimal number of jobs available in the country which cause the level of unemployment and poverty in Indonesia to be quite high. This makes the Indonesian people move to find work elsewhere or abroad to be able to provide for their entire family.

Especially at the end of 1997, the Indonesian economy had a depression. This was due to the economic crisis that hit most Asian countries in 1997 including Indonesia. As a result of the international system which at that time made countries in the Asian

region experience a setback in the economic field. The impact of the economic crisis is still felt domestically. (Arifin, 2014)

c. Demographic Factors

Differences in the level of population increase between various regions of a country are decisive in internal migration. Fertility and natural increases in populations generally are higher in rural areas, which makes rural residents drift towards the city. The demographic state of the workforce is very influential in realizing the desire of Indonesian workers to work in Malaysia such as:

1) Gender

Women dominate Indonesian workers who are interested in working in Malaysia. According to the study, 83.3 percent of the Indonesian migrant workers are women, while men are around 16.7 percent. Likewise, for the delivery of labor in the last five years (2014-2018) which female workers was dominated, this was because the opportunity to get jobs for women had increased compared to the previous. (Arsyad, 1999)

2) Age

The Migration Law states that migrants are usually residents of the young/productive age group. At this age, they are considered more able to develop and adaptation compared to the population of the old faction. There is linearity at a young age encourages them to migrate and work in Malaysia. Young workers tend to be workers who are ready because they have decided to migrate from a young age, while workers over the age of 25 are generally based on economic motivation due to the deterioration of the household economy. The survey found that most migrants working abroad were between the ages of 20-24 years, around (65.0%), age less than 20 years (11.7%) while at the age of

more than 24 years around (23.3%). (Nasution, M. Arif, 2012)

3) Family status and education

From the results of the study, the low level of education triggers becoming a migrant worker in Malaysia because it is one way to work, improve the family economy, and look for a more decent life. So that the population of developing countries works to developed countries because they realize that with a low level of education it will be more challenging to compete in the world of work and most of the workforce who worked abroad (97.5 percent) were unmarried and even if they were married the number only a little.

This is because they after graduating from school immediately seek information about vacancies working abroad or even when they are still in school they have received information from neighbors or friends who work abroad.

The cycle pattern is that legal workers have diverse educational tendencies, but workers with Middle and High School education have the most significant number whereas illegal workers tend to have elementary school and middle school education. The interesting thing here is from semi-illegal workers on average have received formal education even if the only elementary school, while legal workers have a few percents never received an education formally. Population pressure in the next few years will be even higher. About 56% of Indonesian workers are only elementary school graduates and below.

Fewer job opportunities for elementary school graduates. This is exacerbated by the absence of a social security system. Everyone is responsible for their self. There is no other choice, so they only have the option to struggle work even though abroad.

Besides, in general, migrants who work in Malaysia have an average number of family members between 5-8 people. (pasetia, 2015)

d. Personal Factors

Sociologically, being a migrant worker has become a kind of 'dream' for some people. Most Indonesian migrant workers working in Malaysia are of their own volition, personal factors have an important role because the real factors in their place of origin or destination have not been the main factors because it ultimately returns to someone's response to that factor, to their sensitivity and intelligence. 41.7 percent of prospective Indonesian workers who will work in Malaysia stated that their goal of working abroad is because they have difficulty getting jobs in the country and lack of skill ability, during 36.7 percent because the income earned is higher than working in the own region with similar jobs. This is in line with Tylor's opinion that the motivation to immigrate comes from immigrants self, the rest from the stories of experiences of friends or family who have been there. However, from the results of the study, it was also found that the role of friends or the family experience of those who had previously has departed as migrant workers abroad was more significant than the information is available through mass media. Information about employment opportunities obtained through friends who work abroad is around 45.0%, and only 16.7% of the information is collected through mass media. (UGM, 2006)

When compared to the more critical pull or push factor, the researchers conclude that the two factors are closely related. Those who are encouraged to migrate simultaneously are drawn by the hope of finding something better elsewhere. On the other hand it is also due to pulling factors that emphasize the high level of investment in urban areas which leads to more employment and business opportunities and that makes

greater attraction to migrate to urban lifestyles, and it is considered essential for migrant workers because they feel that more complicated rural problems than urban attractions that play a dominant role in population migration. While the push factor is considered reliable because it is a rural problem rather than an urban appeal that plays a dominant role in population migration.