

Chapter I

Introduction

A. Background

The development of a modern era has led to various conveniences, including moving from one country to another. With this convenience, someone can find jobs in another country. As we know that Indonesia has been sending workers abroad for a long time ago even before independence. At that time, the Dutch sent local people to Suriname to be employed. After independence, Indonesia still sends labors but has been organized. In order to reduce unemployment and improve the welfare of the people, the government opens vacancies to work in other countries which still need human resources.

Workers who are going abroad to work are commonly referred to heroes of foreign exchange. This assumption has been mentioned on various occasions and this is a fact because workers who work abroad participate in increasing the country's foreign exchange. This is due to state revenues from foreign exchange into Rupiah. In this case, rupiah will often be bought by foreign currency and the value may increase. Bank Indonesia recorded the total remittances of Indonesian migrant workers in 2015 reaching Rp119 trillion. Meanwhile, in 2016 to October the amount reached US \$ 7.47 billion or equivalent to Rp97.5 trillion. Although the certainty of the total number has only been reported in February 2016 remittances are expected to be not much different from the previous year¹.

¹ Sitorus, R. (2017, 27 January). *TENAGA KERJA INDONESIA: TKI Pahlawan Devisa dan Problematikanya*. Retrieved November 29, 2018, from Industri: <http://industri.bisnis.com/read/20170127/12/623388/tenaga-kerja-indonesia-tki-pahlawan-devisa-dan-problematikanya>

Every year, Indonesia sends workers abroad by Private to Private system (P to P), Government to Government system (G to G), or private systems. In the sending process, there are workers who are placed formally and informally. Formally, workers will be placed in companies with legal entities. Then, the rights and obligations of workers are protected by law. While informally, the workforce will work for individuals. Individual placements usually have problems such as unfulfilled labor rights because workers do not work directly under a legal entity. Therefore, the Indonesian government seeks to encourage the sending of workers in the formal sector. Therefore, the workers can get better protection under applicable law.

Based on the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are around 700,000 Indonesian migrant workers who go abroad every year². Some of the countries which become the destination of Indonesian migrant workers are countries in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. About 80 percent of workers are women. However, this number is the number of workers who depart legally. It is estimated that there are many workers who depart illegally.

South Korea is one of the developed countries in eastern Asia. Since its independence in 1945, South Korea has continued to grow rapidly in many aspects such as technology, economics, education, etc. Furthermore, South Korea is also the origin of Hallyu Wave or Korean Wave which is interesting for teenagers all around the world today. Thus, it makes Hallyu Wave as one source of income other than technology. In addition, South Korea has very rapid

² ILO. (2009, December 17). *Hari Migran Internasional: Mencari solusi atas beragam permasalahan buruh migran Indonesia*. Retrieved November 20, 2018, from International Labour Organization: https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_120726/lang--en/index.htm

economic development compared to other developing countries which established after World War II.

Both Indonesia and South Korea are always trying to fulfill every need for their society. One of the things which becomes a problem for the level of people's welfare is the problem of unemployment in Indonesia. The problem of unemployment in Indonesia causes the government to intervene to resolve the problem. One way the government can reduce the unemployment is by facilitating people who want to work abroad.

As a developed country, South Korea has gone a step ahead in many aspects including education. The existence of a good level of education also makes the welfare rate in South Korea is getting higher. This causes a lack of labors because not many people want to work as laborers in the industrial sector with an adequate education. The level of prosperity in South Korea has reached a high number, where working in the industrial sector or commonly categorized as Dangerous, Dirty, and Difficult (3D) is less desirable by its society. Therefore, migrant workers are needed as supporting industries in South Korea. In this case, South Korea agreed on a policy to accept foreign workers because of the lack of labor from within the country in the low-skill sector.

South Korea is one of the destinations for prospective migrant workers in Indonesia. South Korea is known as one of the developed countries which are loved by both teenagers and adults. Therefore, the number of Indonesian Workers (*TKI-Tenaga Kerja Indonesia*) in South Korea continues to increase. Minimum wages as workers in South Korea are also quite high for migrant workers.

Since 2004, the agreement on Employment Permit System (EPS) had been extended 2 times, in 2008 and 2010. The enthusiasm of labor who would go to South Korea has been getting higher year by year. This is because of the

various factors that attract and encourage workers to choose South Korea as their place of work. It is known that South Korea has a higher minimum wage than in Indonesia. In 2014, there were about 35 thousand Indonesia migrant workers in South Korea. The capacity is 9000 migrant workers per year³.

However, even though the number of worker delivery always increases every year, a problem arises amid the welfare of workers. As mentioned earlier, high salaries and a comfortable place have caused many workers to be reluctant to return to Indonesia after the employment contract expires. This problem can lead to a buildup of Indonesian migrant workers in South Korea. It can disrupt the agreement that has been agreed between Indonesia and South Korea.

The problem about overstaying migrant workers has been going on for a long time in South Korea. Based on data from The South Korea Justice Ministry, the number of immigrants without documents or overstaying migrant workers is more than 213.000 workers in July 2016. Most of them were from China and South East Asia including Indonesia. This increased by 27% of the number of previous years. This result made the total number of illegal migrants more than 10% of the total number of the foreigner in South Korea⁴. Therefore, the government has an important role to solve this problem because it can endanger the migrants itself.

The occurrence of over-migrant workers who overstayed happened to Vietnam. At that time, Vietnamese workers who overstayed in South Korea had exceeded the

³ Government. (2015). *Korea Selatan*. Retrieved April 11, 2018, from Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia: <https://www.kemlu.go.id/seoul/lc/Pages/Korea-Selatan.aspx>

⁴ News. (2016, September 21). *Number of illegal immigrants in Korea over 213,000 as of July: data*. Retrieved December 5, 2018, from Arirang News Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUfmp9fUMvI>

limit of around 10,000 workers. This caused the South Korean government to stop sending workers from Vietnam. It is estimated that the number of Indonesian workers who overstayed in South Korea was 7,000 in 2015⁵.

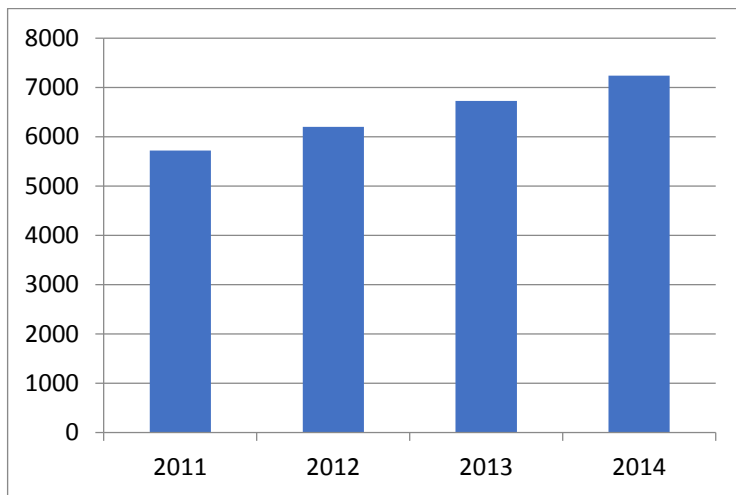
Heryadi, Director of the Placement Service of the BNP2TKI, stated that the workers who were interested to work in South Korea reached 30,000 applicants. In 2015, there were around 38,000 applicants who wanted to work in South Korea. While in South Korea there were still many Indonesian migrant workers who worked there including workers who overstayed. Because of this, the registration of migrant workers to South Korea was closed in 2016. In 2016, there were around 31,000 applicants and only 5,200 were accepted⁶. However, it was canceled because of Indonesia migrant workers were still too much in South Korea.

This cancellation can also disturb the workers who choose South Korea as their destination. Due to the canceled registration and tests to work in South Korea in 2016, many of them had to wait for the test until next year. In addition, after passing the test to work, the workers were not directly sent to their workplace because they had to wait for work calls from the government or South Korean companies that needed workers. Thus, if the workers work in accordance with the existing contract, it can expedite the subsequent distribution of workers.

⁵ Maharani, S. A. (2016). KEBIJAKAN PEMERINTAH INDONESIA DAN KOREA SELATAN DALAM MENANGANI TKI OVERSTAY DI KOREA SELATAN. *Journal of International Relations, Volume 2, Nomor 4*, 282-292.

⁶ Tempo. (2017, April 27). *Karena Gaji, Korea Selatan jadi Tujuan Favorit Calon TKI*. Retrieved November 20, 2018, from Tempo.Co: <https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/870204/karena-gaji-korea-selatan-jadi-tujuan-favorit-calon-tki/full&view=ok>

Figure 1 The Number of Overstaying Indonesian Migrant Worker⁷



From the data of the Korean Immigration Service in 2015, the number of Indonesian workers who overstayed continued to increase from 2011 to 2014. In 2011, the number of Indonesian workers who overstayed in South Korea was 5,718 people, in 2012 there were 6,197 people, in 2013 there were 6,723 people, and in 2014 there were 7,237 people. Even though the chart always went up, the percentage increase did not reach 10%. In 2012, the increase was about 8.38%, in 2013 amounted to 8.48%, and in 2014 amounted to 7.65%. This problem certainly requires follow-up from the

⁷ Maharani, S. A. (2016). KEBIJAKAN PEMERINTAH INDONESIA DAN KOREA SELATAN DALAM MENANGANI TKI OVERSTAY DI KOREA SELATAN. *Journal of International Relations*, Volume 2, Nomor 4, 282-292.

governments of the two countries because it can hinder the distribution of future migrant workers.

With this paper, the writer wants to examine why there are many overstaying Indonesian migrant workers in South Korea. South Korea is very attractive for many people to earn an income. The cooperation between both countries about employment also has already happened for more than 10 years. However, many workers still overstayed there. This can hamper the other workers who also want to work in South Korea. The overstaying migrant worker without legal permission also can get into a serious problem if the government find them.

B. Research Question

From the background of the problems that has been described previously, the writer takes the following formulation of the problem: *“Why does overstaying occur to Indonesian migrant workers in South Korea?”*

C. Theoretical Framework

The theory is needed to facilitate the research process that will be done by the writer about the factors that caused Indonesian overstaying migrant workers in South Korea. This theoretical framework purposes to support the understanding of research as a guide. This theory will help the writer to analyze the existing problems. Therefore, the writer uses the Theory of Push and Pull to analyze factors that make the Indonesian Migrant Workers overstay in South Korea.

1. Theory of Push and Pull

South Korea is one of the destinations of job seekers to work, including job seekers from Indonesia. They moved from their region to South Korea and hopes for getting a better income. This is one of the forms of International Migration of workers. According to Zlonik (1992), International Migration of Workers is a form of population mobility that transcends the borders of the State and culture⁸.

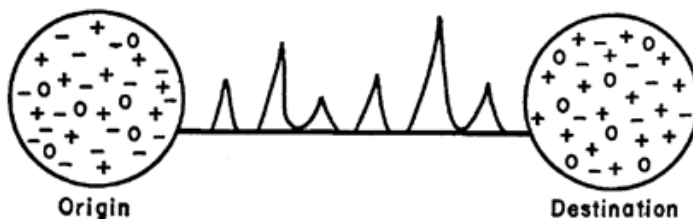
The movement which occurs is caused by various factors that exist in the area of origin and destination of migration. In this case, each region has factors to attract or encourage someone to move. However, the big differences can cause unexpected things. If an area has a large appeal it can cause many people to come and be reluctant to return home. A large number of people who enter an area without being offset by the number that comes out can cause overpopulation in the area. This can lead to the emergence of slums and the increase of crime rates.

In his article "Theory of Migration", Everett S. Lee (1978) states that the volume of migration in a region develops according to the diversity of regions in the area. In the area of origin and destination of migration, there are positive factors (+), negative factors (-), and neutral factors (0). Positive factor (+) is beneficial factors such as high levels of well-being, good facilities, etc. Then, the negative factor (-) is the lacking factor that exists. It makes people decide to

⁸ Haris, A. (2003). *Kucuran Keringat dan Derap Pembangunan (Jejak Migran dalam Pembangunan Daerah)*. Pustaka Pelajar.

move from that place. That difference is what causes migration in society⁹.

Figure 2 Origin and Destination Factors in Migration



Push and pull factor of migration¹⁰.

In each region, there is positive factor (+) or the factors which hold a person to leave his area or pull people to move to another area. Then, negative factor (-) is the factor which drives people to migrate from its area. And the last is neutral factors (0) or the factors that have no effect on the migration of the population in an area. However, the positive or negative factor is the decision of the individual himself because the decision to migrate or not depends on the individual¹¹.

The large pull factor in an area will affect the number of people to settle there. The higher pull factor can make the number of immigrants continue to grow. It is also related to the condition of the area. More advanced economic development, education, and infrastructure will be one of the existing pull factors. This is because the condition of an area that is prosperous will be the choice of destination for people

⁹ Prasetyo, M. (2015). *Teori Mobilitas Sosial Everett S, Lee*. Retrieved November 22, 2018, from digilib.uinsby.ac.id/3890/7/Bab%202.pdf

¹⁰ Lee, E. S. (1966). *Demography. A Theory of Migration*, 47-45.

¹¹ *Ibid*

who comes from abroad. They hope to get a better life than ever before. South Korea now is a developed country which already develops in many aspects of economic, education, infrastructure, etc. South Korea is known as one of technology development center. Those things will pull people to come to South Korea.

On the other side, the push factor of the origin area will also affect the number of people who leave the area. Usually, the push factors are the lack of job opportunities for people, poor economy and education, and inadequate infrastructure. These things can encourage people to go to the better areas. In Indonesia's condition right now, the population growth is quite high causing the lack of job vacancies. It triggers people to migrate and seek a good job opportunity abroad.

Usually, Indonesian migrant workers come from small areas or away from more modern areas. This has become a push factor for them to move to another place for a better life. The lack of jobs or low income also convinces the workers to migrate. Meanwhile, the situation in South Korea which is very developed attracts Indonesian workers to stay there. In addition, the salary obtained is also quite high and benefits the workers. Therefore, they feel their lives are more prosperous in South Korea. Based on these conditions, the theory of Push and Pull from Everett S. Lee can be used for this study. This theory can be used to analyze the factors that caused overstay by Indonesian workers.

D. Hypothesis

From the formulation of the problem and the theoretical framework that has been explained previously, the writer can make a hypothesis about why the Indonesian workers choose to stay in South Korea even their work permit is already expired or overstayed.

- a. The push factor is the economic condition in Indonesia that most of workers come from low income family.
- b. The pull factor is the higher salary that they can get in South Korea than in Indonesia.

E. Research Method

1. Research and Data Type

In this research, the writer used descriptive qualitative methods, where this method seeks the data in detail and actual. This method will explain the symptoms that exist and conclude it as a way to determine the resolution of a problem. The data in this study were obtained by collecting primary and secondary data from various materials related to the research title. The writer in this research used primary and secondary data. The writer performed data collection techniques by using interview and the literature study, which is tracking data taken from books, scientific journals, documents, and internet media.

2. Method of Data Collection

The writer used several ways to collect the data to discuss the problem:

1. Media Research

The writer collected data from media such as the internet to find the source and reference to know the data of Indonesian migrant workers in South Korea.

2. Library Research

The writer collected data by doing library research to find the source and references to get the explanation of the theory.

3. Data Analysis

The data which were collected from media research and library research were used to be the resource to analyze the hypothesis.

4. Proving Hypothesis

The writer discussed the problem and proved the hypothesis which has been made before.

F. Objective of Research

This undergraduate thesis has several purposes, as follow:

1. to analyze the factors of overstaying Indonesian migrant workers in South Korea.
2. to find out why there are many Indonesian migrant workers who refuse to go back to their home country after their work permit has expired.

G. Scope of research

In this study, the writer analyzed the factors that caused overstaying Indonesian migrant workers in 2011-2018. Those things can be in the form of drivers, pull, and push factor experienced by the migrant workers internally and externally. In addition, the writer can find the way from the government of Indonesia and South Korea in dealing with these problems.

H. System of Writing

The writer divides this paper into some chapters and each chapter is connected and related to the other. Thus, it becomes one research.

Chapter I, this chapter consists of the background, research question, theoretical framework, hypothesis, research method, objective, scope, and system of writing of the topic of this research.

Chapter II, this chapter discusses the dynamic of Indonesia migrant workers to South Korea and the cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea government.

Chapter III, this chapter discusses about the illegal workers including overstaying workers in South Korea.

Chapter IV, this chapter discusses and analyzes the factors which made the workers overstay in South Korea.

Chapter V, this chapter consists of the closing and the conclusion of the entire paper as a whole.