

# Empowering the Indonesian Post-Migrant Workers

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## Abstract

Due to have big remittance as a significant national devisa, the Indonesian post-migrant workers becomes an important social issue that needs to get noticed seriously both from the government and society. But their income from working abroad is used to pay the debt they had used to finance their departure and/or often to buy consumptive goods. In consequence, the economic problem comes as they no longer going abroad for work (post-migrant worker); since they have no productive economic activities. This research aims to provide alternative empowerment for the post-migrant workers carry out economic activities in the country. The research was conducted in West Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara Province. The method used by triangulation techniques, combined qualitative with quantitative methods. The results of this study is the number of workers who are not able to take advantage of after-work abroad in the form of salary / wages and technical experience and mental courage to accept the risk, due to the lack of technical guidance both before and after completion of work contract. Utilization of remittances has a very significant impact, both for the improvement of the welfare of migrant workers and their families and the community through efforts perluasana employment opportunities. Therefore, it provides knowledge about entrepreneurship becomes important for workers and their families so that remittances can be harnessed for productive ventures.

## Keywords

Empowerment, Post-Migrant Workers, Entrepreneurship, West Lombok

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## 1. Introduction

### *Background*

The big problem that Indonesia is facing today is unemployment. Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) in 2016 stated that the number of open unemployed people above 15 years reaches 9,427,590 people, which in fact from them is the average of education is low. Therefore, working abroad on the one hand faced many problems, but for those who unable to work in the country, it remains an attractive option with the lure of lucrative income [1].

According to a survey conducted by the Bank of Indonesia of West Nusa Tenggara Province that in general the majority of

the workers (84%) felt being migrant workers could make the economic conditions of their families better and could set aside funds for working capital, buy land, build houses, and forth. However, most of the migrants' remittances sent to Lombok apparently used to pay the debt they had used to finance their departure abroad [5].

It is estimated that every year foreign exchange earnings of US \$ 2.6 million are brought into the country by the migrant workers. Based on the number of Indonesian Workers of 2,679,536 people in 2015-2016, the foreign exchange generated amounted to US \$ 6.6 billion. Thus, each worker averages each year generating 2,468 US \$ per worker/month on average 205 US \$ per worker [10].

The World Bank estimates that migrant workers will bring

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remittances at least 7.1 billion US dollars in 2010, up from 6.6 billion US dollars in 2009 [7]. From the economic side, this is positive, but can not deny many cases that befall workers in the country. Ironically, the migrant workers after returning home from abroad most of the money used to meet consumer needs, such as building homes, buying electronic goods, buying vehicles, and so on [9].

Against migrant workers after this migration, the government has conducted a lot of efforts. The Ministry of Manpower through the National Board of Placement and Protection of Indonesian Manpower (BNP2TKI) annually empowers these migrant workers after the migration [4]. However, if observed, the empowerment efforts are done only during the moment of training. There is no follow-up assistance such as mentoring in the field. After the training, it is usually not evaluated whether or not they could apply the knowledge they had received [7].

This research aims to provide alternative solution of the post-migrant workers by conducting productive economic efforts in the country, so they are not necessary going abroad for work.

This empowerment model of the post-migrant workers through productive economic effort is a different empowerment model than such usually done by the government. In this empowerment model, post migrant workers will be trained and assisted until they actually have independent productive economic businesses.

Preliminary findings indicate that the average of their children's education is only up to secondary education, as there is no cost to support it [9]. With this empowerment is expected that their children will be able to continue their education and achieve a better life in the future.

The urgency of this empowerment model is:

1. Being thought-provoking materials for post-migrant workers in creating productive economic enterprises in their home environment;
2. Improving the welfare of the families of the post-migrant workers;
3. Increasing competitiveness of the Indonesian workers and increasing local revenue;
4. Determining the direction and policies of the local governments in handling of the post-migrant workers;
5. Reducing the number of unemployed and poverty of the post-migrant workers.

## 2. Methods

This research is descriptive research using qualitative approach with the aim to create a systematic, factual and

accurate description of the facts and properties on a particular research object. This research took place in West Lombok regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. The data sources are former migrant worker, and other people who are considered to know such as children, wives, neighbors, and people who are considered necessary.

Data collection is done through observation, survey, interview, and documentation. The interviews used were unstructured interviews, as they would be able to provide wide opportunities for qualitative research. Interviews to be conducted with respondents are a form of human to human relations and researchers tend to understand not to explain [11].

Although the interview is unstructured, the researcher still has some key elements in line with the research focus, so as not to lose the meaning in this study. The data collected is then analyzed. Qualitative data analysis is also defined as continuous, repetitive and continuous effort [6].

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Characteristics of the Post-Migrant Workers (PMW)

Based on research result, it is found that basically the characteristic of the post migrant workers by combining entrepreneurial ability with the religious actualization and social environment interaction can be grouped into four groups of characteristics, namely:

Group I: The characteristic is low business capability as well as the ability of the field of religion and interaction of social environment is also low.

Group II: The characteristic is high business ability as well as the ability of interaction of low social environment.

Group III: The characteristic is low business capability but the ability of interaction of the social environment is high.

Group IV: The characteristic is high business capability as well as the ability of interaction of social environment is also high.

The position of the capability of the PMW in each group has the consequences of different points of empowering emphasis according to their needs.

For the first group, it is clear that the PMW, on one hand, does not have the ability to self-employment, and on the other hand, does not have the ability of social interaction. Having no or having low business ability include having no entrepreneurship, low motivation, never tried the business, not having business intention, fear of failure, lack of capital, attitude of shame, easy to give up, not confidence and so

forth. Obviously the PMW is low or does not have an entrepreneurial milieu.

The characteristics of the PMW group II expelled even with limited entrepreneurship but dared to try the business while continuing to learn from the experience and adds insight and self knowledge. The target of the empowerment is to have entrepreneurship ability of the post-migrant workers. Indicators of this feasibility of life include having a permanent home that is fit for habitation can meet health, have a fixed income that can to meet daily needs, if ill can be treated, can pay for school children. On the other hand, this group has a characteristic of understanding and social interaction ability is still low.

Characteristic of PMW group III. This group on one hand has no entrepreneurial ability and no business, does not have enough income to meet the family various needs. This group

has no knowledge of entrepreneurship, and how to earn enough income through productive economic effort.

A characteristic of group IV, the PMW is already has a business and good business ability and has had enough income to meet the needs, even has saved used for investment. This group economically has a productive economic business that can meet the needs of family life. This group is ideal to be the target of this empowerment.

Based on these characteristics, problem solution can be found in the empowerment according to requirement of the PMW.

### 3.2. Empowerment Model

The empowerment model through productive economic effort based on the characteristics of the migrant workers is shown in the following figure:

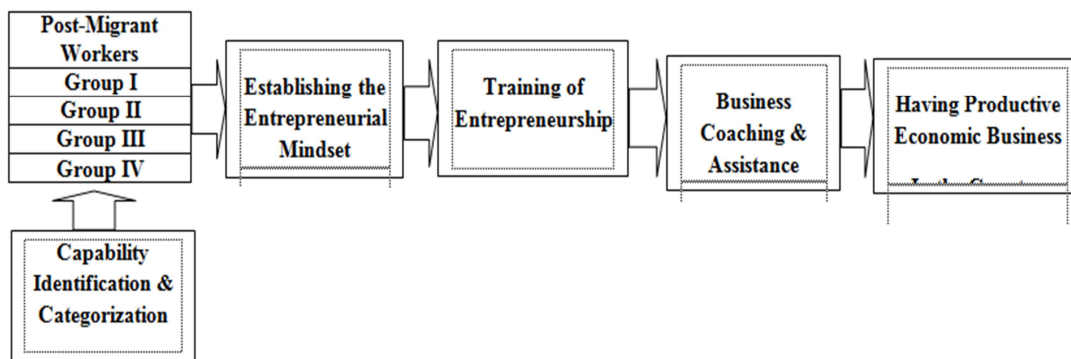


Figure 1. Model of Empowering the Indonesian Post- Migrant Workers in West Lombok.

### 3.3. Explanation of the Post-Migrant Workers Empowerment Model

The flow of the post-migrant workers empowerment model can be explained as follows:

1. The post-migrant workers are identified by fulfilling provided instruments.
2. From the identification result, the capability of PMW will be categorized in group I, group II, group III, and group IV.

Group I is a group of Indonesian labor migrants whose characteristics of low business ability as well as the ability of religious field and social environment interaction are also low.

Group II is a group of Indonesian Migrant Workers with characteristics of high business capability as well as the ability of religious field and interaction of low social environment.

Group III is a group of Indonesian Migrant Workers with low business ability characteristics but high religious and social interaction skills.

Group IV is a group of Indonesian Migrant Workers whose

characteristics of high business capability and the ability of religious field and social environment interaction are also high.

3. After the workers are grouped, each group will get different ways of empowerment. Group I will get material mindset of productive economy / entrepreneurship and mindset of prosperous family.

Group II will obtain only welfare family material, while group III will get the entrepreneurial mindset material.

4. For groups of PMW group IV will be tested whether the field already have a productive economic business and practice the values of prosperous families (religion and social interaction with the environment. If it is true that this group will be a partner or family example that has been successful, Have a productive economic enterprise.

5. For group I, II and III groups after obtaining the entrepreneurial mindset or even the prosperous family mindset, it is followed by entrepreneurship training and training of the welfare family in the form of simulation.

6. The group I, II and III after the training will do the practice

of entrepreneurship, while the practices of the values of prosperous families that in fact based on religious values and social relations will be checked in the field.

7. In conducting field practice carried out coaching, mentoring until they really can do independently. In addition, to see the sustainability will always be monitoring. In practice, this group can partner and study together with groups of IV group PMW to be able to share experiences and motivate each other, solve problems, and strengthen the business network.

8. Group I, II and II Group I, after assistance for approximately 1 to 2 years is expected to become entrepreneurs who have a productive economic business that is independent and really become a prosperous family.

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion that has been done, it can be concluded as follows:

1. Most of Indonesian workers are unable to utilize the work result and technical experience, due to lack of technical coaching both before and after completing the work contract.
2. Utilization of remittance has a very significant impact, both for improving the welfare of migrant workers and their families and for the community through efforts to expand employment opportunities. Therefore, the knowledge-sharing of entrepreneurship becomes important for the PMW and their families so that remittance can be used for productive enterprises.
3. Through this study it is known that most PMW have high potential to be empowered through entrepreneurial technical guidance designed in accordance with potential based on identification results.
4. Local governments through programs and activities to

address poverty and unemployment issues by facilitating community empowerment through entrepreneurial guidance.

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