

# ORGANIZING RETURN MIGRANT WORKERS FROM INDONESIA FOR SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE

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## **Abstract**

*This article presents an understanding of how returnees of overseas workers have an impact on family and community in term of prosperity and wellbeing. The main background of this article is the growing trend of migration as one impact of globalization. Furthermore this article focuses on overseas workers and will seek to address the lack attention of current research on demonstrating how returnees overseas workers could contribute to sustainable development. At the end of the article it suggests to do further research in order to find answers about the impacts of having experiences as overseas workers for family and community prosperity and well being. In this article is discussed two regions in Southeast Asia namely Indonesia and Philippine where in these two countries playing significant role as sending countries for overseas workers.*

*Keywords: overseas workers, returnees, sustainable development*

## **Abstrak**

Artikel ini akan menyajikan pemahaman tentang bagaimana purna buruh migran dapat memberikan dampak bagi keluarga dan masyarakat di sekelilingnya dalam hal peningkatan kualitas hidup dan kesejahteraan. Latar belakang utama dari artikel ini adalah semakin mudah dan banyaknya orang yang memutuskan menjadi pekerja migran di luar negaranya sebagai dampak dari globalisasi. Selanjutnya artikel ini akan focus pada purnaburuhmigran dan akan mencoba memberikan penjelasan pentingnya penelitian lebih lanjut tentang bagaimana para purna buruh migran tersebut dapat berkontribusi untuk pembangunan yang berkelanjutan. Dalam artikel ini disajikan beberapa hasil penelitian tentang hubungan remitan, pembangunan dan buruh migran di dua negara Asia Tenggara yang merupakan negara pengirim buruh migran terbesar di asiaTenggara.

Kata kunci: buruh migran, purna buruh migran, pembangunan berkelanjutan

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The number of people who move and mobile to search for security and better livelihood continue to increase and turn into many forms of migration. Actually, the first age of mass migration crossing border of nation was during the nineteenth and early twentieth century when millions of Europeans migrated to the America for seeking higher wages and better live condition (Martin et.al; 2006:9). As the impact of globalization, the trend persists up to now especially because it becomes easier to move, and it involves more people who mostly from developing to more developed countries.

Migration is influenced by many factors. The development of communication has facilitated people to change such information about greater opportunity of living abroad. The lack of opportunities in origin countries and the need of labor in destination countries have created a good combination for encouraging people to migrate. This situation is named as a “push-pull factors” in the discussion about migration.

Migration addresses impacts, both for an origin country and a destination country. Migrant workers contribute to economic development of their home countries through money that sending home (remittances) to support their family.

Moreover in the period of their stay abroad, migrants have an opportunity to gain capital and forming networks of relationships and acquiring knowledge from their new country of residence (OECD; 2008). As they return home with money and experiences, competences and foreign

language, they could use those to make their life better than before they leave for working overseas.

Along with that, Piper (2013) argues that, “only remittances is not enough to develop local economy but the creativity of returning migrants is more important.” Furthermore, according to Levitt (1998) there is “social remittances” which refers to accumulated new skills, ideas, and practices during their stay in destination countries that are not necessarily turned into productive effects in economic terms but aim in poverty reduction. Based on this argument I argue that it is critical to organize this sources institutionally in order to maximize the benefit of migration for development. Therefore in the next section below, this article will present arguments among scholars who discuss about overseas workers specifically returnees. The discussion will also compare findings from scholars who researched about Indonesia and Philippine, the two countries that playing significant role as sending countries for overseas workers.

## DISCUSSION

The next section will discuss literatures about previous research on return migration studies. This section will consist of discussion about remittances, concept of international migrant workers or overseas workers and return migration in global context and in South East Asia Context which will take a look at Philippine and Indonesia cases. In this chapter also will describe how international migrant workers affect development through remittances produced.

### *International Migrant Workers, Development and Remittances*

A growing trend of international migrant workers has been claimed giving such contribution to development. In the half end of twentieth century, international migration plays a significant role in a shift of society and development in all region in the world (Castle; 2000). In his paper Castle describes that migration strongly affect society through remittances and transfer of skills even for people who do not migrate. They are affected by relatives and neighborhood who are doing migration and change experiences in the community. As a result of this phenomenon, one community becomes more diverse and multiethnic society. Similar views is given by Bailey (2001) who said that somehow migrants influence daily life of communities that contribute on emerging transnational community.

Migrant workers can contribute to economic development of their home countries through their money that sending home (remittances) to support their family at their country of origin. Research by Plat et.al (2013) argued that migration contributes to livelihood strategy for poverty reduction. This research illustrates remittances sending behavior of women domestic workers from Indonesia in Singapore. The research tried to reveal benefits of employment through remittances. The results of the research show that remittances of those migrants goes mainly for paying basic needs and education of their children left in the village. So it is clear that remittances add a living expense of family member in Indonesia. This research also reveal that migrants tend to remit more in the early stage of their working in Singapore to support children education or buying assets such as agricultural land or houses. After that they focus on earning capital for businesses when they back home.

Another research by Syamsuri (2005) which conducted in Desa Rensing (Rensing Village) Lombok Timur Regency found that remittance has an influence on economic activity, since the family income of migrants increased. At the same time, , remittance also has an influence on socio cultural development at migrants hometown, for example the change level of education within migrants family which result on changing pattern within the family, changing on women labor status, changing pattern of inter generation relationship, etc. In other words, remittances influences the socio cultural transformation in origin country.

Meanwhile research conducted by Gumilang (2010) found that remittances contribute to village development. Contributions from migrant workers managed by village foundation for conducting social activity that aim i poverty reduction. This research which conducted in Dusun Surogati (Surogati Village) in Magelang, Indonesia, describes life story of migrant family in order to reveal economics motives of families on using remittances. According to this research, even though remittances trigger hedonism, on the other hand it also improve social class of migrant families in this village. They become important people in the village since they also donate some remittances for village development such as :to build some infra structures in the village. Through this research we can conclude that remittances strongly influence migrant families not only in term of improving prosperity but also expand their social status within society in home village.

Study by La & Leung (2016) about experience of Vietnamese household with remittances shows that remittances from migrant is a significant part of economic of the country. The study

exposed that a large number of Vietnamese households received remittances in 2002-2006 and those make up a major source of family incomes. Especially for the poor family, remittances seem to be a protection in any household expenditures. The study also demonstrates that there is some indication that amongst high-income households, remittances are used for saving by buying asset for investment and or for capital on trading. This study make more obvious that remittances play quite important role to support migrant families at original country as well as contribute to economic activity in home country. Especially when they spend more for long term investment such as property, education, etc.

Recently scholars and policy maker's attention to the money send back home by migrant workers has increased significantly. Research conducted by Hernandez & Coutin (2006) try to link money, states and migrants which focus on remittances from United States of America and El Savador. According to this research within central banks and international financial institutions, remittances treated as national income and foreign exchange so it is defined as a 'cost-free' source of national income". As usually migration flows from poor nations to more powerful states, as a result those more powerful countries seen as donors for poorer countries since migrants take home pay is sent to their motherland. It is categorized as "cost free" because central banks do not take into account certain costs should be paid by migrants. Such as ; smuggling fees or transfer charge by money transfer agencies. Moreover it is claimed in this paper that national development plans can rely on citizens strategies to enterprising their self then they will carry more supply for the country. At the end this paper concludes that remittances are a direct form of support for development. However this enthusiasm about this instrument of development need to re-look at again since more remittances could be meant that it is lack of opportunity in home country. Suffering of migrants in the host country and the possibility of being exploited should be take into account by policy maker in the home country.

Another study by Levit (1998) reveal that another form of remittances is social remittances which refer to ideas, behaviors, identities, and social capital that flow from country of destination to original country communities. These become social and cultural resources that bring by return migrants from north-to-south. According to this paper, social remittances deserve attention since it acts as an important part of migration and surely cause asocial impacts of migration to the fore. This research also reveal that social remittances can be critical to support development in home country. It connections take place when migrants return to stay or visit communities in origin country and also when nonmigrants visit their migrant family members; or through communications through letters, videos, cassettes and telephone. Since it is true that it can promote better outcomes so that it should get serious attention to put these social remittances as development support. Further research should be conducted to give clear discussion about how to organize these social remittances.

### ***Return International Migrant Workers: in A Global Context***

According to the United Nations Statistics Division for collecting data on international migration (UNSD, 1998), returning migrants are "*persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short term or long-term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least a year.*" According to this definition, a migrant's home country refers to his nationality.

After working for some years overseas, some migrant workers decided to return home. The decision of a temporary migrant to return to the country of origin is influenced by several factors, including the accomplishment of planned earnings, the unavailability of employment, and withdrawal of a work permit, working contract is over and family reunification (OECD, 2008). They return home with money and experiences, competences and foreign language ability they gained at host country where they worked. They will use what they obtained to make their life better than before they leave for working overseas.

For many migrants, returning home is an expectation that attract them and something that keep their positive spirit alive during their migration journey. Especially for those who was leaving their home country under temporary programs. The literatures have identified some factors that influence return migrant decisions, most remarkably non economic factors such as nationalism and social binding to home country and a lack of assimilation into the society in host country. As for social binding, personal attributes such as, ethnicity, gender, and marital status are most important things they considered. As claimed by Waldorf (1995) that ethnicity is likely to be the most important determinant of return migration to going back home such as the least assimilated ethnic group.

In addition to that the study by Waldorf also provide a clear evidence that satisfaction of income and job as well as comfortable livelihood have decreased the intentions of migrant workers in returning home rather than those who are dissatisfied with their jobs and/or residences. By this it is clear that if migrant has good experiences while living and working overseas, it will result on their decision on period of stay and when they will return home. However those explanation above confirm that most migrants have possibility to return to their original country with various stages and various reasons.

In the period of their stay abroad, migrants have an opportunity to gain capital and forming networks of relationships and acquiring knowledge from their new country of residence (OECD; 2008). The network could be personal and professional contacts created during their staying abroad can be very useful for specific activities after return (Rauch and Trindade; 2002). The attainment of a foreign language will be a significant asset to conduct their activity with their personal or professional contact at their host country. Through this illustration we could find out that there is something positive and useful for individual and community in addition to economic gain that is useful from return migrant.

From the brief explanation about return migrant above, it could be argued that such experience and knowledge acquired by overseas migrants would be benefit for development. Some scholars have been conducted research discussing about positive values being brought by return migrants (Dustmann et.al ;2011, Agergaard & Broeger; 2016). They claimed and discussed in their article about potential profit brought by return migrant to home country. According to the article there is evidence that, for migrants who returned home from working abroad enhance in positive way their work experience acquired abroad through learning by doing more than work experience acquired in the home country. This research investigated Mexicans returnees who returned from working in United States. But then his research did not provide clearer argument on how to govern that profit to promote development in home country.

Moreover Agergaard & Broegger (2016), in their paper also reveal about educational migrants in Nepal who do not create massive economic remittances for local development, but they contribute in important social remittance practices such as teaching in local schools, supporting women organizations, and sharing knowledge. Nevertheless, it fails to explore more about using the social remittance for local development. In addition to that Hugo (2002) simply describes about the impact of international migration for family especially through the money send back home to fund household expenditures. It does not take into account the impact for community especially when migrants decide to return and reside in home country. This gives a sign that more research in this area is urgent to be conducted to have far investigation about importance of having new knowledge and new experience after living overseas to contribute to local community in original country.

Another study discussion on return migrants has been conducted by Waldorf (1995). This study discusses that in specific stage migrants will return. The factors influence it are vary but then this study ignores about return migrants living after they return to home countries. It doesn't discuss how return migrants affects their family and their environment around at home countries .

Some scholars also find social capital enclosed by return migrants could be benefit for development but it did not discuss more about the using and the impact of it (Prayitno et.al;2014 and Cassarino;2004). The study conducted by Prayitno et.al (2014) discusses about the relation between social capital and migration from rural areas in Indonesia. In this paper it is stated that migration happens due to many factors. In addition to economic considerations , social networks also contribute to motivate people to migrate. This article argues that as social beings, humans are inevitably enmeshed in interpersonal relation of strong ties to close friends and relatives and weak ties to more distant relatives, casual acquaintances, and friends of friends. By drawing on the social ties, an individual can mobilize the social capital embedded within it to gain valuable information, moral support, and material assistance that may reduce, the costs and risks of migration. As a result, people with migrant friends and relatives present a much higher likelihood of emigration compared to those who do not have any; stronger the social connection, more and better the person's migratory experience. This study argues that households with higher social capital are affordable to send a longer period their family members as migrant workers. This study concerns on social capital that used to help member of community to go abroad and work as migrant workers. Meanwhile this study disregard that social capital having by return migrant workers could positively contribute to development in the village.

Another research by Casarrino (2004) tried to link between migration and development in migrants' origin countries by put attention to the approaches of return migration. This paper

argues that 'how' and 'under which circumstances' migrants return strongly influence contribution of returnees to development in origin countries. It mentions about willingness and readiness to return. It states that the higher the level of preparedness to return, the greater the ability of returnees to gain resources and the stronger their contribution to development. This is also could explain why some returnees become actors of development while others do not. This study clearly emphasize that return refers to a *preparation process* that can be optimally invested in development if it takes place autonomously and if the migration experience is long enough to foster resource mobilization. However this paper doesn't give a clear explanation to what extent those returnees will benefit the development

Numerous researches about return migrant workers have been conducted by scholars but only a few who concern about "social remittances" brought by return migrant workers. Most of them discussed about economic remittances which is clearly give impact on migrants household (Sapkota;2013, Eversole & Shaw; 2010, and Adam & Cuecuecha; 2013).Those paper describes that economic remittances sent by migrant workers used by household members to support family members activities.

Sapkota (2013) for instance, who studied about impact of remittance in Nepal, concludes that since the number of migrant workers increase on 2000/01, Nepal is grouped as one of the highest remittance recipients in the world. This study reveals that remittances have been contributed significantly in reducing poverty and inequality in Nepal. It explains in this paper that remittance improve poor household expenses as well as enhancing reserve of foreign exchange.

In addition to Sapkota, Evershole&Shaw (2010) who wrote about the use of remittance in three Asian countries where remittances inflows is high, namely ; Indonesia, Philippine and Sri Lanka, describe their findings that remitting behavior obviously influence by kind of jobs of migrants in host country and the amount they are able to earn. Personal background such as gender and length of time working abroad also affect the sum that they are able to remit. Yet it is proved that remittance goes to household expenses in these three countries context. Moreover Adam&Cuecuecha (2013) investigate about remittance, consumption and investment in Ghana that remittance-receiving household spend their remittance for consumption (food and consumer goods/durables) or investment goods (education and housing).

Another research perceives return migrants from a gender perspective was conducted by Degrees (2009), stating that an assessment of the entire migration experience, individually or collectively for various groups of migrant women, should consider increases in opportunities, freedoms, and rights, equal access to resources and changes in gender roles and care responsibilities. So that women who having experience as migrant workers affect their life in community in term of empowerment, rights and wellbeing as they are able to contribute to development through remittances that they earned.

There is study about applying social remittance for community empowerment which has been pointed out by Ge et.al (2011), this research has illustrated on return migrants who bring personal new knowledge, skills, and potential beneficial relationship acquired during their stay abroad, and also such ideas of prosperity which make possible for them to introduce new forms of leadership and community action in their home village. This research illustrates about return migrants in China who bring with them new knowledge, skills, and potentially beneficial relationships acquired during their stay abroad, which make possible for them to introduce new forms of leadership and community action in their home village. Those are categorized as social remittances which in this paper could be understood as carrying the potential to improve collective action in support of sustainable local natural resource-based livelihoods. Nevertheless this study reveals that it is not easy for women return migrants to put into effect the social remittance they gained during their sojourns abroad. The study shows that return migrants in this particular context remain embedded within a strong social constructions about gender, kinship alliances and clan based. This article have revealed the potential of return migrant workers to improve the community through their social remittances, but as it explains that those social remittances difficult to be applied, so a more intensive research should be done to investigates how to put aside the barriers as well as further discussion about maximizing benefits of international migrant workers.

### *In South East Asia Context: Philippine*

Philippines has been well known as a supplier country of migrant workers, both for skilled and low skilled labor for more developed regions since 1970's ([www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org) accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017). The article explains that as of December 2004, almost 10 percent of the Filipinos were working in nearly 200 foreign countries. So that according to Mary Lou L. Alcid in the report project about Migrant Labor in South East Asia, Philippine is a country which its economy deeply dependent on remittances of its overseas workers ([www.fes.de](http://www.fes.de), accessed on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017). This report also reveals that the Philippine economy continues to be driven mainly by consumption and remittances of its overseas workers.

Research by Franco (2016) states that since 1980s large number of Filipino women started to work abroad, so that in addition to high inflow of remittances, feminization of migration become an important characteristic of Philippine overseas workers. According to this paper existing policy of Philippine's government that has "gender sensitive" and international obligation to preserve the rights of migrant workers have been factors that influence the flow of migrant workers from Philippine. However, this paper reveals that some terms in the policy are not coherent with international standards. Furthermore, this research argues even though the policy can be improved but creating proper jobs for women inside the country is the most appropriate solution to control this outmigration.

Another research by Asis (2006) touch about return migrant workers from Philippine. It begins by describing phenomenon of Philippine overseas workers describes that this trends is about continue to increase in the near future. High demand from destination countries is most likely turn into more important factor for Filipinos to work overseas. This paper states that Philippine is an example of a success story for becoming the primary source of workers and skilled personnel in the global labor market. The Philippines can also considered doing well in developing good practices to promote migrant empowerment. In contrast beyond all of the facts mentioned, the development impacts of migration are not significant. Furthermore this paper also take into account non economic impact of international migration. Separation of family members is become concern which would grind down the solidity of parent-child relationship. High advance in communications technology, give great help in maintaining family binding. However statistics show emotional costs for the children, the migrants and the left-behind caregivers cannot be ignored.

This research argues as a country with its broad migration experience, Philippine should seriously build linkage between migration and development. The state needs to investigate a possibility for collaborations with receiving countries, faith-based organizations, migrant oriented NGOs, on development programs for migrant workers from Philippine. This paper also suggests state should arrange policy and programs on the return migrant workers so that they could be partners in development and play positive role on transfer of knowledge for prospective migrant workers

Some researches discuss about return migrant workers from Philippine (Yang&Ford;2004, Rother;2009, and Montefrio et.al;2014). Those studies try to link migration and development but they do not discuss about the social remittances impact of return migration for development.

Yang & Ford (2004) for instances describe reason why Philippine migrant workers who work in in richer countries, at the end return to origin country which clearly poorer. This research especially take into account explanation from return migrant who returned during the 1997 Asian financial crisis when exchange rate shocks happened. As they worked in richer country, they can benefit from exchange rate shocks. However, some of them from intermediate level of household decided to return home since they worked are motivated by target earnings. They prefer to use their remittances as entrepreneurial income. They purchased property and vehicle. These empirical results are consistent with a model where migration helps households accumulate resources for investment and impact on economics in country of origin.

Another discussion about return migrant workers from Philippine was conducted by Rother (2009) who discusses about impact of return migrant on democratization. This paper prove that migration experience affect migrants' attitudes towards democracy. The article focuses on return migrants from Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Japan, which showed significant variation and the number of changes in support of democracy compared to when they first-time leaved home country migrated to such destinations. According to this paper Hong Kong appears to be the most precise case as Hongkong offers Filipino workers personal freedom, guarantee labor rights and the possibility to join political organization as migrant workers. According to that experiences return migrants considered Hong Kong as democracy in the matters that were relevant to them. On the other hand, migrants in Saudi Arabia were confronted with severe restrictions on their personal

freedom but at the same time they also witnessed the efficient functioning of the Saudi Arabian state for the Saudi citizens and concluded from this observation that authoritarian systems have positive advantages. Meanwhile in the case of Japan, many Filipinos work as overseas performing artists (OPAs) and they faced violations of their basic rights, since they were employed illegally in clubs and in the depressed situation in terms of payments and assistances. This case reveals that even in democracies there are different kinds of rules applied to residents and migrants.

As a consequence, these women were very vulnerable to abuse and harassment, but only few of them complained and when they did, these complaints were often not formally filed and put on record. From the description above it can be said that living in a democratic country will not promise positive result in assessment of democracy but for all three destinations covered in this article it can be concluded that migrants have become somewhat more active after their return when compared with the time before they had first left the country.

Another study by Yu (2015) reveals about socio-cultural change that gain by return Overseas Filipino Workers (OWFs) while they were exposed with host community in destination country. According to this research, Personal identities, family ties, social behavior, and religious attitudes are major socio-cultural values to consider when exploring the effects of transnational migration on both departing and returnee migrants. This paper explains in terms of personal identities and social behavior of the returnees the changes are significant. On the other hand about family ties and religious attitudes are remain the same. Furthermore in this study also reveal that the changes occurred also lead to both positive and negative influences their local community. People interviewed in the research mentioned about contribution of returnees in the improvement of local economic by establish small scale family business and also financial support for social activities, such as church service, maintaining buildings. It is also states that returnees demonstrated multiple strengths after have experiences working abroad, such as creativity, independence in terms of financial and making decision for family, diligence and also skills in manage time and financial management. It also revealed that the returnees had gained a better understanding about laws and government policies. If they find troubles or difficulties in their daily lives or when running their businesses, they tried to solve the problems by following the relevant laws and policies. The familiarity of daily life overseas had provided returnees a better understanding of foreign cultures and development situations. It result on their attitude toward education. Returnees family member are more likely going to tertiary education. So through Yu's research can be concluded that there are some potential values being brought back by return migrant workers that need to be noticed by policy maker in order to enlarge the benefit of migration.

There is a study about applying social remittance for community empowerment which has been pointed out by (Montefrio et.al;2014) this research has illustrated on return migrants who bring personal new knowledge, skills, and potential beneficial relationship acquired during their stay abroad, and also such ideas of prosperity which make possible for them to introduce new forms of leadership and community action in their home village. This study for instance, investigates the relationship between social remittances and land-use change in the context of Filipino oil palm workers who returned from the Malaysian State of Sabah, this paper describes how migrants transmit social remittances, such as ideas of prosperity associated with oil palm development and knowledge of production practices and land impacts of oil palm plantations. Through this paper could be understood that social remittances can potentially play a more significant role than monetary remittances. However this study focuses on South-South migration, there is a need for further research on the transmission of ideas and knowledge in the context of South-North and North-North migrations. While Filipino oil palm workers may not remit enough economic remittances to make significant changes in their home communities, their social remittances can influence local farmers' engagement with oil palm cultivation. This case could be a base to conduct further research about the impact of social remittances in another major sending country of migrant workers such as Indonesia. The further research should be focus not only its impact on management of natural resources but also its impact on wider field such as human development.

#### ***In South East Asia Context: Indonesian Context***

Indonesia is one of the main worldwide resource for migrant workers. This argument is explained and claimed by (Hugo;2007 and Nurchayati; 2011). Hugo in his paper reveals that as fourth most densely inhabited nation in the world with population over 225.5 million people, by the end of 2006, an estimated 11 percent of Indonesian workers (11.6 million workers) were unemployed, and underemployment was over 20 percent (45 million workers). This condition

results on increasing number of migration to more developed nations to seek for a job. According to Hugo, there are two types of migrant workers from Indonesia. First is predominantly permanent and consist of skilled labor to developed countries particularly belongs to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). While second is well known as a temporary migrate to Middle East and other regions in Asia. For this type of migrant workers is comprised of unskilled labor, dominated by women and work as domestic workers and vulnerable to exploitation.

In addition to Hugo, another research that reveals about Indonesia as a major sending country for migrant workers was conducted by Nurchayati (2011) who in her paper describe that exporting labor is one solution to alleviate the long term impact of 1997/1998 economic crisis. In this research she also explains about the experience of three females return migrant workers during their work in Saudi Arabia.

This study makes clear how those females coped and adapted with the challenges of life and work in foreign country in order to pursuing their goals. Saudi Arabia abolished slavery in 1962 but it still indicates some Saudis still educate their children to view foreign domestic workers as under-civilized. Therefore they exercised strategies to face difficulties engendered by their employers, such as ; talk in Arabic to their employers for negotiating better labor relations, better salary and encounter intimidation. By talking in Arabic they tried to demonstrate that they are fully understand whole articles in the contracts so their employers will respect to them. In other situations the strategy to pretend they don't understand Arabic will benefit them. This allow them to overhear their employers chat to find out their employers real thought, feelings and attitudes which potential in the future they could against them. Another strategy they applied during their working in Saudi Arabia were secretly exchanging information with colleague Indonesian domestic workers, act as if they prefer work at home rather than travel with employers so they could have a bit rest while employers out and self defending from sexual harassment by consistent and confident denial. This study shows those female migrants in this research we can noticed that they could create strategies to deal with difficulties at some point in their working journey. They have potential that could be developed in positive way and share it with their environment.

Another research that reveal the experience of return migrant is conducted by William (2008) who explored about three female return migrants from East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia which one of poorest region in the country. According to in depth interview used in this research, it can be described that those three return migrant using the institution of religion and their belief in their migration process (early decision to migrate, in the journey, and on arrival abroad. They decided to find a place to create their happiness by migrate to another country because they believe it is the answer of God to their praying. They also use their belief to argue to their family to let them go and convince that God will protect them since they are going in order to help their family. During the trip they who come from remotes, poor and insufficient infrastructure, feel confidence and brave because they believe they follow God's will. As well as in the destination country, to empower them and negotiate their marginalized position as domestic workers in their employment site, they exercise their religion institution. As Catholic, who have rituals and regular attendance on Sunday mass, they discuss this with their employers to give them work day off to have their worship time at the church. Their participation in religious rituals enable them to socially gathered with other migrants from Indonesia. They named it as "strengthening family bonds. After they return to their village in origin country, they continue this binding and regularly meet in a place of pilgrimage for doing social activity. In this place they allocate prayers for blessing journey, for their family and for some friends who still working in Hong Kong. It is obvious that because of their religious beliefs, their belief on God's willing, their worship ritual routine have somehow quite empowering them since they frequently have and hope positive outcome from their activity.

In this study William also explains that through migration women no longer restricted their identity as mother, sister or daughter. Having experienced as transnational migrants offer them an opportunity to redefine themselves as a salary person, a city occupant, a traveler, a consumer, working person with limited free time. Migration stimulates those women "self-conscious recognition" to themselves. Those experiences of return migrants domestic workers, I am convince that further study about the potential of returnees is needed and organizing them institutionally also important to increase the advantage of migration.

In contrast, research by Silvey (2000) who research about the impact of economic crisis in Indonesia to women from low income family in South Sulawesi Indonesia, reveals that crisis has caused retrenchment on employment field. This result on both men and women who work at Makassar Industrial Region (KIMA/Kawasan Industri Makassar) loss their job. This situation



push young women migrants living in KIMA to return to their rural basis. In their origin site, the young women in this study are assigned to do heavier household responsibility in order to help elderly men and women in the family. Even though women return migrants do better care to people in the family but they confront lower access to household resources compares to male within family. Through this research we can conclude that return female labor migrants in this study, have not expanded their power within households even though they gained new experiences during their worked in KIMA. This case is not part of international migration but this case proves that organizing potential of return migrants is necessary as a form of empowerment for return migrants themselves and for maximize benefits of migration.

Typically labor from Indonesia is a short term contract or temporary labor who works in another country for a certain period, usually around two years. Having finished their contract they have to return to home country, renew the employment contract or settled down back in their hometown in Indonesia.

There are number of researches founds that discusses on Indonesia return migrant workers (Kloppenbug&Peter;2012, Baharudin; 2007, Ningsi; 2016 and Meiliyana et.al; 2016). Those studies aim to discuss about return migrant workers and the efforts have been done to manage them. But, none of the research discuss about the impact of social remittances gained by migrant workers during their sojourn overseas. Those studies only able to look the protection for return migrant workers during their journey to their village and some efforts have been done to assure that those return migrants would survive and will not do second migration.

Kloppenbug&Peter (2012) explain about the form of mobility regime that apply for return migrant workers of Indonesia. This study described about “Anisa’s” (female migrant workers from Central Java Province, Indonesia) journey to her village after returning from working in Middle East. In this paper is explained how government effort work to protect returnees since their arrive at Soekarno Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. They are separated from other passengers in arrival terminal where government has been preparing buses to take them to their hometown so that they have to travel to fixed destination based on address on their passport. Moreover this study reveals that some restrictions experienced by returnees also produce unintended effects. For instance; since the bus that bring returnees home literally marking as migrant transportation so it is noticeable to people during the way including criminals. Furthermore, addressing migrant workers as “foreign revenue heroes” also has been made them subject to extortion. The bus driver who take them home will ask some extra money as they argue that they have take returnees safely to village. Thus this study concludes that control over returnees mobility in order to protect them has produced immobility for return migrant workers.

In addition to that, Baharudin (2007) who also focus his study on Indonesian return migrant workers reveals about some efforts have been done to assure that those return migrants are protected properly during their journey to their hometown and they are able to survive and will not do second migration. Meanwhile Ningsi (2016) explains about some programs have been done by East Java Local Governance to train returnees some skills, such as production of cake and *Batik* (Indonesian traditional cloths). This programs conducted in order to prevent returnees to do second migration.

Another study about return migrant workers from Indonesia has been done by Meiliyana. Et.al (2016) that describes about some efforts have been done by Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) and NGO’s in order to assure that return migrant workers will not do second migration. Former migrant workers who actively involved in SBMI help each other conducting training to give additional skills to returnees, such as : how to manage money they have been earned during their working abroad for build a small scale household business in their village and how to stock breeding goats.

## CONCLUSION

According to literatures have been discussed above, there is a lack on current study on potential positive social impact of the return migrant workers especially in Indonesia which in long term could be potential for development. Many scholars focus on returnees story about their capability using and create strategy to adapt and handle difficulties throughout their moment in employment site. Another research on experience of return migrant workers from East Nusa Tenggara who apply religion institution on their migration process. Moreover, other research about return migrant workers focus on protection for returnees on their way home and efforts from stakeholders to prevent second migration of returnees by attract their interest on doing small scale business and or farming. So that further research aims to provide a wider knowledge on the issue

about impacts of social remittances bring by the return migrant is obviously needed. It will also provide a new context of the study if it is conducted in Indonesia, one of major sending overseas workers in South East Asia.

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