



# Socialization of strategies to become a safe legal Indonesian migrant worker (PMI) In East Lampung

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** East Lampung Regency ranks first in Lampung Province and ninth nationally as a sending region for migrant workers (PMI), with 75,311 people. Despite contributing significantly to the migrant workforce, the region faces numerous civil law challenges, including cases of employment termination, passport detention, undocumented workers, and overstays, making it a critical area for addressing migrant worker issues. **Methods:** This study employed a qualitative approach, analyzing secondary data from government reports, legal records, and migrant worker case studies in East Lampung. Interviews with key stakeholders, such as government officials, legal experts, and migrant worker advocacy groups, were also conducted to understand the root causes and impacts of these civil law cases. **Findings:** The research found that East Lampung's prominence as a PMI sending region correlates with an increase in civil law cases involving migrant workers. Issues like lack of proper documentation and legal protection are key factors contributing to the high incidence of cases such as termination of employment and passport detention. The study also identified gaps in policy implementation and support systems for migrant workers, both before and after departure. **Conclusion:** East Lampung Regency's status as a leading PMI sending region is accompanied by significant legal challenges for migrant workers. Strengthening legal frameworks, improving migrant worker documentation, and providing pre-departure training on legal rights are essential for reducing civil law cases and ensuring better protection for workers. **Novelty/Originality of this study:** This study is unique in highlighting the specific legal issues faced by migrant workers from East Lampung Regency. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the underlying causes of civil law cases and offers recommendations for policy improvements to enhance the protection and welfare of migrant workers from this region.

**KEYWORDS:** labor relations; legal Indonesian migrant workers; overstay; safe migrants; undocumented.

## 1. Introduction

Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) significantly contribute to the national economy by providing substantial foreign exchange and helping to alleviate unemployment within the country. According to the National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BNP2TKI), thousands of individuals are dispatched annually to various countries, particularly in East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. However, the journey of labor migration is fraught with challenges and risks, including illegal migration practices, exploitation, and workplace violence, as highlighted by Fikriansyah et al. (2023). These challenges not only affect the well-being of migrant workers but also impact their families and communities back home. Therefore, addressing these issues is critical to ensuring that

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the benefits of labor migration are realized without compromising the rights and safety of the workers involved.

To combat the risks associated with labor migration, the Indonesian government has implemented improvements in regulations and protection systems for migrant workers. The introduction of Law No. 18/2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers aims to establish a comprehensive protection framework that encompasses the entire migration process—from pre-placement to the working period and eventual return. A key element of this legislative effort is the emphasis on socialization and education for prospective migrant workers. By raising awareness about the importance of becoming legal migrants and understanding their rights and obligations, the government seeks to empower individuals and promote safer migration practices. This proactive approach is crucial in reducing the vulnerabilities that many migrant workers face when seeking employment abroad.

Effective socialization efforts are particularly vital in regions known for high rates of migrant worker dispatch, such as East Lampung. These initiatives can help potential migrants navigate the complexities of official procedures, understand the risks involved, and avoid falling victim to illegal recruitment practices. Additionally, providing information about legal protections, social security, and the importance of safe work contracts is essential for ensuring that migrant workers are well-informed. Knowledge in these areas can significantly reduce the likelihood of rights violations and enhance the overall safety of Indonesian workers in destination countries, as noted by Hakim et al. (2020). By prioritizing education and awareness, Indonesia can foster a more secure and productive migration experience for its citizens.

This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of socializing safe migration strategies for prospective migrant workers in East Lampung, focusing on how these initiatives can enhance awareness of the importance of legal and safe migration practices. As one of Indonesia's largest sending regions for Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI), Lampung Province has a significant number of residents opting to work abroad due to a large population and limited job opportunities in the formal sector. Many individuals view labor migration as a viable option to improve their family's economic conditions. Countries in East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe are particularly popular destinations for migrant workers from Lampung, as they offer the potential for better livelihoods. However, these migrants often encounter various challenges throughout the migration process, which can compromise their safety and well-being.

Migrant workers from Lampung frequently face risks such as falling victim to illegal recruitment practices, lacking understanding of their labor rights, and experiencing exploitation in their destination countries, as highlighted by Hidayat (2021). These issues present significant challenges for both local and national governments, who must work to ensure that all migrant workers are able to migrate legally and safely. The implementation of Law No. 18/2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers provides a strong legal framework for protecting PMI, covering all stages of the migration process, from pre-placement to return. It emphasizes the necessity of comprehensive socialization efforts to educate potential migrant workers about the legal migration process, the significance of understanding work contracts, and their rights while working abroad. Such educational initiatives are crucial in equipping migrant workers with the knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of international labor markets effectively.

Furthermore, effective socialization of safe migration strategies is essential in mitigating the risks associated with labor migration from Lampung. By promoting awareness of legal channels and the importance of safe migration, the government can help prospective migrant workers avoid illegal recruitment and exploitation. It is vital to engage various stakeholders, including local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders, in these socialization efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage and accessibility of information. Through these collaborative approaches, the challenges faced by migrant workers can be addressed more effectively, leading to safer and more secure migration experiences. Ultimately, prioritizing education and awareness in safe migration

strategies will contribute to the overall protection and well-being of Indonesian migrant workers.

At the local level, the Lampung Provincial Government is actively working to improve education and training for prospective migrant workers through its Manpower and Transmigration Office. This initiative involves collaboration with various related institutions to provide comprehensive socialization on legal procedures for labor placement, social security, and legal protections. Such efforts are crucial in preventing illegal migration practices that can lead to severe challenges for workers in the future. East Lampung, recognized as one of the districts with the highest number of migrant workers in the province, serves as a vital focus area for these educational and socialization efforts. By prioritizing this district, the government aims to equip potential migrants with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of working abroad safely.

To enhance the effectiveness of these educational initiatives, the government and relevant institutions organize a variety of training sessions and seminars specifically tailored for prospective migrant workers. These programs cover essential topics such as migration procedures, necessary work skills, and understanding employment contracts. Information dissemination is further bolstered through multiple channels, including television, radio, newspapers, and social media, ensuring that the message reaches diverse segments of society. Additionally, printed materials that outline the risks of illegal migration and the proper legal labor migration processes are distributed widely. The utilization of digital platforms, including websites and applications, also plays a significant role in providing accessible information, helping potential migrant workers make informed decisions about their employment abroad.

Despite these efforts, many Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI), whether legal or illegal, often encounter problems that stem from their lack of knowledge and skills, as well as an unawareness of the conditions in their destination countries. Many workers do not fully understand their rights and obligations while abroad, particularly in situations where they may face challenges. This ignorance can lead to difficulties in addressing issues such as unilateral termination of employment, unpaid wages, or even entanglements with the law. As highlighted by Novaria H. (2023), having a clear understanding of problem-solving processes and knowing whom to contact for assistance are essential for migrant workers. By addressing these gaps in knowledge and support, the Lampung Provincial Government aims to empower its migrant workforce, ensuring safer and more successful migration experiences for those seeking better opportunities abroad.

## 2. Methods

This research adopts a qualitative approach utilizing descriptive methods to thoroughly explore and analyze the socialization strategies for becoming safe and legal Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in East Lampung. The choice of a qualitative approach is crucial as it allows for a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the socialization process, particularly how these strategies impact the local community. By focusing on the lived experiences and perceptions of prospective migrant workers, the study aims to shed light on the effectiveness of various socialization initiatives. Detailed observations and analyses will provide insights into the practical methods employed in disseminating information about safe and legal labor migration. This qualitative exploration is intended to capture the nuances of how these strategies are implemented and received by the community.

The descriptive method plays an essential role in this research by accurately documenting how socialization is carried out in the field. This includes examining the strategies adopted by various stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders, while also identifying the challenges they encounter during the socialization process. The study will evaluate community responses to these initiatives, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the

effectiveness of current practices. Through real-world observations and engagement with the community, the research aims to highlight both the strengths and weaknesses of existing socialization strategies. This detailed account will contribute valuable information regarding the operational dynamics of labor migration socialization in East Lampung.

Ultimately, this research aspires to provide a clear and detailed picture of the socialization strategies utilized to promote safe and legal labor migration in East Lampung. Additionally, it aims to identify key factors that contribute to the success or failure of these efforts in raising public awareness about the importance of legal migration pathways. Understanding these dynamics is essential for enhancing the effectiveness of future socialization programs and ensuring that more individuals follow safe and legal avenues to become PMI. By addressing the gaps in knowledge and support, the research seeks to empower prospective migrant workers with the information needed to navigate the complexities of migration responsibly. The findings of this study will not only benefit local communities but also inform policymakers and stakeholders involved in the labor migration sector, ultimately leading to safer migration experiences for all.

### 3. Results and Discussion

According to Law No. 18/2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI), Indonesian citizens are defined as individuals who will, are currently, or have previously worked for wages outside the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. This comprehensive legal framework encompasses a wide range of workers, including those placed by government agencies, private institutions, and individuals who seek employment independently through official and legal channels. The law aims to safeguard the rights and welfare of PMI, ensuring that they receive adequate protection throughout the migration process. By clearly outlining the definition of PMI, the law emphasizes the importance of utilizing legitimate and recognized pathways for employment abroad, which can help prevent exploitation and illegal recruitment practices. Furthermore, the legislation provides a structured approach to addressing the challenges faced by Indonesian workers overseas, promoting their safety and dignity while contributing to the nation's economy through remittances and other means.

PMIs are entitled to legal protection before, during, and after the placement period abroad. This includes legal assistance if the PMI experiences problems in the destination country. Migrant workers have the right to receive wages in accordance with the agreed work contract and should not be discriminated against in terms of payment. Migrant workers have the right to a safe working environment and to be protected from accidents or risks that endanger their health and safety. Migrant workers have the right to social security, including health insurance and protection from accidents or other risks during their employment. Indonesian migrant workers have the right to receive complete information about the destination country, their rights, and grievance procedures in case of problems. Indonesian migrant workers have the right to receive skills training, technical guidance, and empowerment that support preparation before departure to the destination country.

Indonesian migrant workers must comply with the laws and regulations of Indonesia and the laws of the country where they work, including the work rules that apply in the destination country. PMI must follow all official procedures set by the government in the recruitment, placement, and repatriation process in order to receive full protection from the government. Migrant workers must maintain a positive image of Indonesia in the destination country, act professionally, and not violate the law in the country. Before being dispatched, PMIs are required to take part in training and preparation programs organized by the government or authorized parties. Indonesian migrant workers are required to report any violations of rights or problems encountered during the work period to the Indonesian representative or related institutions.

Employment contracts for Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) must comprehensively outline critical information to ensure clarity and protection for the workers. Key elements such as salary, working hours, specific duties and responsibilities, leave entitlements, and conditions for termination should be explicitly detailed in the contract. Moreover, it is essential that these contracts incorporate protective clauses that guarantee migrant workers' rights, including access to legal assistance if required. Understanding every provision within the contract is crucial for PMI, as this knowledge empowers them to make informed decisions and safeguards their rights while working abroad. Therefore, it is vital for migrant workers to feel encouraged to seek clarification on any points that they do not comprehend before signing the contract, as this proactive approach can significantly reduce the risk of misunderstandings or exploitation in their employment experience (Puanandini, 2020).

Migrant workers should be informed about the culture, customs, and laws of the destination country to avoid conflicts or violations. Migrant workers should know where and how to contact Indonesian consular representatives in the destination country if they encounter problems or need assistance. Networking with other migrant workers in the destination country can help increase safety and provide support in case of difficulties. Migrant workers should understand reporting procedures if they encounter dangerous situations, such as employer abuse or exploitation, and know who to report to.

Many potential migrant workers living in remote areas have difficulty accessing information on legal migration procedures and their rights due to a lack of communication infrastructure. Many potential migrant workers are unfamiliar with migration laws and often do not understand the employment contracts they sign, leaving them vulnerable to fraud and exploitation. In many areas, brokers or illegal recruiters still have a strong influence. They often offer shortcuts for potential migrants to work abroad, but at a high risk. Local governments often experience limitations in terms of budget, human resources, and infrastructure to carry out socialization evenly throughout the region, especially in remote areas (Solecha et al., 2020).

After the socialization, prospective migrant workers and the general public are more aware of the importance of following legal procedures in working abroad. They better understand the risks of illegal migration as well as the rights they can get if they follow official channels. The government continues to supervise labor channeling agents (PPTKIS) to ensure that they carry out the recruitment process in accordance with regulations. Agents who violate the provisions are subject to administrative or criminal sanctions. The government conducts strict law enforcement against illegal recruiters who are often the main cause of illegal migration. This includes the arrest of human trafficking syndicates that take advantage of uninformed potential migrant workers (Safitri et al., 2023).

#### **4. Conclusions**

The development of tourist destinations in Gelora Bung Karno (GBK) is a multifaceted process that relies on the collaboration of various stakeholders rather than solely on government initiatives. This collaborative framework, referred to as hexa helix collaboration, encompasses the government, community, business industry, academia, media, and legal/regulatory authorities. Each stakeholder plays a vital role in enhancing GBK's potential as a recreational, cultural, social, and political hub. The government serves as the main regulator, tasked with formulating policies that facilitate the development and management of GBK. Meanwhile, businesses such as travel agencies, hotels, restaurants, and transportation providers contribute essential facilities and services that cater to the needs of GBK visitors, ensuring a comprehensive tourism experience. Additionally, local communities and sports organizations play a crucial role in organizing events and activities, further enriching the visitor experience.

Moreover, the integration of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) concept is pivotal for positioning GBK as a sustainable tourism destination. By promoting access

through public transportation, maximizing land use, and fostering a pedestrian-friendly environment, TOD enhances the overall visitor experience at GBK. This approach not only facilitates easier access to the destination but also encourages a more sustainable lifestyle among visitors and residents alike. The synergy between TOD and the collaborative efforts of stakeholders can significantly improve connectivity with the surrounding area, thereby yielding broader economic and social benefits. Ultimately, the successful development of GBK as a tourist destination hinges on this collaborative framework and the implementation of innovative concepts like TOD to create an inclusive and attractive environment for all.

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