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# Non-permanent migration in Rancang Welak Village community

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Non-permanent mobility among residents of rural areas has become a notable phenomenon, particularly driven by economic factors and advancements in destination areas. In Rancang Welak Village, West Manggarai Regency, the residents engage in non-permanent mobility seeking better economic opportunities and attracted by progress in destination areas. **Methods:** This descriptive qualitative research aims to explore the factors influencing non-permanent mobility among residents of Rancang Welak Village. Data collection methods included observation, interviews, and documentation. The study focused on residents who were engaged in non-permanent mobility, particularly seasonal farmers. **Results:** The findings revealed that residents, especially seasonal farmers, felt their needs were unmet in the village and sought information about job opportunities elsewhere. As a result, they engaged in non-permanent mobility, primarily driven by economic factors. The residents undertook mobility due to push factors from their village and pull factors from destination areas, particularly economic opportunities and advancements. **Conclusions:** The research concludes that economic factors play a significant role in driving non-permanent mobility among residents of Rancang Welak Village. The allure of economic opportunities and progress in destination areas encourages residents to migrate non-permanently. This study provides insights into the factors influencing non-permanent mobility in rural areas and highlights the importance of economic considerations in migration decisions.

**KEYWORDS:** mobility; nonpermanen; Rancang Welak Village

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## 1. Introduction

Population movement, along with birth and death rates, significantly impacts population structure, including the number of individuals, geographical distribution, and demographic composition (Fierza, 2018). This mobility arises in response to livelihood needs and economic aspirations. In the modern era, mobility often entails relocation from one place to another without intending permanent settlement. People move from their residences to seek job opportunities and increase income in destination areas, especially in urban areas perceived to offer more job opportunities (Auliyana, 2017).

Job opportunities are the dominant factor in social mobility, related to the concept of regional differentiation. This differentiation signifies differences between regions, believed in geography to foster regional development due to differences in supply and demand between regions (Bintar, 1992 in Argista, 2015). For instance, individuals or groups may migrate to a region because of numerous job opportunities. Therefore, they

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believe that by moving to that location, they can improve their quality of life by finding better employment.

According to Khairuddin (1992: 7 in Permana, 2018), pull factors encompass various aspects that encourage migration from the original region to the destination, while push factors are the factors that drive people to leave their areas and migrate elsewhere. Therefore, both the original and destination areas have equal influence in triggering social mobility. The phenomenon of non-permanent mobility occurs in Desa Racang, Kecamatan Welak, Kabupaten Manggarai Barat, which is part of Desa Pong Welak. The majority of residents of Desa Racang Welak work as farmers.

The researcher observes non-permanent mobility in Desa Racang Welak, where its residents prefer to work outside the region. Therefore, this study aims to answer questions about the non-permanent mobility of Desa Racang Welak residents. Theoretically, this research aims to contribute to knowledge about non-permanent mobility in this village and serve as a source of information for other researchers interested in similar phenomena. Furthermore, the findings of this research are expected to support further studies that seek to comprehensively examine similar phenomena in this village or other villages in Manggarai Barat.

Before delving further into methodology and discussion, the researcher first outlines several concepts underlying this research, known as the theoretical framework. The focus is on the theory of population mobility. Population mobility in rural areas is considered a crucial strategy for increasing their income (Santoso, 2019). Individual movement from one area to another refers to the concept of population mobility, both in contemporary and longer-term contexts. From a geographical perspective, population mobility refers to the movement of people, according to Rusli (in Permana, 2017). The difference between permanent and non-permanent mobility lies in its nature, with vertical mobility referring to changes in individual status, while horizontal or geographic mobility, as explained by Mantra (2003: 174 in Alamin, 2015), refers to the movement of people across territorial boundaries for a specific period, which can include village, district, city, district, province, or even country boundaries.

In this context, this research focuses on non-permanent geographic mobility, where individuals move from one place to another without intending to settle in the destination. According to Steele (in Alamin, 2015), individuals who initially have no intention of settling in the destination but still live there for a long time are still considered non-permanent mobility actors. Non-permanent mobility is triggered by centrifugal forces, which drive individuals to migrate or leave their areas due to various factors such as limited job opportunities and educational facilities. Non-permanent migrants consider both the advantages and disadvantages they will gain, hoping to provide significant benefits to the families they leave behind. Migration decisions are influenced by various factors. According to Lee (Mantra, 2003: 181 in Permana, 2017), there are four factors considered in studies on population migration, namely push and pull factors.

The driving factors from the area of origin, known as push factors, include economic and transportation factors. Generally, people engage in mobility with the hope of improving their quality of life. Economic factors are the primary drivers of population migration, as individuals seek better opportunities elsewhere. Additionally, the availability of transportation facilities also encourages population mobility by facilitating access out of the area to improve the economy, seek employment, and access education. On the other hand, pull factors from the destination area include available job opportunities, the chance to earn higher income, comfortable environments, and advancements present at the destination. Furthermore, at the individual level of migration decision-making, the rational choice theory approach becomes relevant. Todaro (in Mantra, 2003: 231 in Auliyana, 2017) reveals that individuals migrate due to the hope of change and higher income, considering the benefits and costs rationally, both psychologically and financially.

Based on previous research, there are several studies that also discuss population mobility. First, a study titled "Cyclical Mobility of Pisang Island Residents to Krui City in 2013" by Zeko Argista, Buchori Asyik, Irmha Lusi Nugraheni (2015). The aim of this study

is to understand how Pisang Island residents engage in cyclical mobility to Krui City in the Central Coastal District of West Coastal District in response to limited job opportunities, low income, and available business opportunities. The research findings indicate that Pisang Island residents are not driven by job opportunities in their area of origin or their income level there.

Second, a study titled "Factors Affecting Round-Trip Mobility of Tamban District Residents to Banjarmasin City" by Rabul Alamin, Sidharta Adyatma, and Deasy Arisandi (2015). The results of this study indicate that factors influencing the round-trip mobility of Tamban District residents to Banjarmasin City include: lack of job opportunities in the area of origin, lack of educational facilities in the area of origin, and economic growth resulting in an increasing number of people working. People travel to Banjarmasin City due to wider educational choices, available entertainment venues, cheaper prices, and family visits..

## 2. Methods

In this study, the researcher opted to employ qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research is a method used to observe the research subject in natural conditions where the researcher acts as the primary instrument (Sugiyono, 2017). Sugiyono (2017) also elucidates that in qualitative research, data collection is conducted through triangulation, data analysis is qualitative in nature, and there is a primary emphasis on the meaning derived from research findings. The presence of the researcher at the research location aims to gather data directly through observation, interviews, and documentation (Moleong, 2017). This is crucial to enable the researcher to understand field issues and seek solutions through direct interviews, data collection, and reporting of research findings.

This research was conducted in Racang Welak Village, Welak Sub-district, West Manggarai Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province (NTT). The selection of this location was based on initial observations that the location had the potential to address the research problem. The collected data consisted of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through random sampling in the field due to limitations in manpower, funds, and time. The main informants of this research were stakeholders and the community of Racang Welak Village. Meanwhile, secondary data, in the form of supporting data, were obtained through relevant literature studies related to the research object.

To support the research findings, the researcher collected references from various sources such as books, journal articles, or other writings relevant to the research topic. Subsequently, the collected data underwent the process of analysis. Data analysis is a step undertaken by the researcher to organize data obtained from respondents or other data sources (Sugiyono, 2017). This study utilized a descriptive approach with a greater emphasis on the description of interview results and documentation studies. The collected data will be analyzed qualitatively and presented in descriptive form. Data validity is important to ensure the validity of the collected data and is rehabilitated through a series of studies to be retested (Moleong, 2017). The evaluation of data validity prioritizes the validity of the data obtained (Sugiyono, 2017). Checking data validity is a crucial step in ensuring the validity of the data obtained in the study, thus the obtained results can be relied upon as accurate information.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Characteristics of Racang Welak Village

Administratively, Racang Welak Village is part of Welak Sub-district. The land area in Racang Welak Village is classified as highlands with fertile and friable andosol soil, suitable for various crops such as cloves, coffee, sweet potatoes, bananas, peanuts, chili, sugar cane, and rice paddies. The village's topography includes elevation, with slopes inclined approximately 1000 meters above sea level, resulting in a relatively cold climate. The favorable soil and topographical conditions make agriculture the main activity in the village. The majority of Racang Welak Village residents earn their livelihoods as farmers. However, there are also those who work in other sectors. Farming activities are undertaken by farmers to meet the economic needs of their families, with the harvests produced being used for both personal consumption and sale in the market.

High harvest productivity increases the income of farmers, leading many of them to choose to remain employed as farmers in the village. However, with the passage of time and the narrowing of agricultural land due to urban growth, agricultural productivity has declined, forcing some farmers to consider other professions that can provide more decent income or even just supplement their earnings. Some residents who have resources choose to migrate out of the village in search of better job opportunities. There are two types of mobility undertaken: permanent mobility, where residents move and settle in the destination area without plans to return, and non-permanent mobility, where residents leave their hometown without intention to settle in the destination.

Non-permanent mobility occurs in Racang Welak Village, Welak Sub-district, West Manggarai Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province (NTT). The villagers engage in non-permanent mobility due to limited job opportunities and low income in their hometown, as well as job opportunities in the destination area. The inadequate economic conditions drive the residents of Racang Welak Village to work outside their area. Before working outside the area, they usually gather information about the destination area, both from official sources and from family members already residing there, especially regarding available job opportunities. Generally, residents of Racang Welak Village work outside their hometown only to meet unmet needs in their hometown.

#### 3.2 Factors driving non-permanent mobility

Social mobility is more likely to occur in open-minded communities willing to try new things because it is more feasible to improve the welfare of their current families. The driving factor I will explain here is the economic factor. Leaving the city to improve the economy. By engaging in population mobility, people hope that their economic conditions will improve and believe that greater job opportunities can be found in the destination area. The economic factor driving mobility is economic disparity. As stated by Mr. Filipus from Jerudin, "I choose to work elsewhere because I have to meet the needs of my family, which consists of 5 people, which are still unfulfilled in my hometown" (Mr. Filipus).

The same sentiment is echoed by the following informant, who states that he works elsewhere because he is a seasonal farmer, and also has 5 dependents, so to meet his daily living needs, he must work elsewhere. As explained by him as follows: "I work elsewhere because of my job as a seasonal farmer, while waiting for the harvest, I also have to meet the economic needs of my family by working elsewhere. Besides, the burden of my family is quite large, with a total of 4 people." (Mr. Yeremias)

The following informant also expresses that the driving factor for Mr. Emanuel to work elsewhere is because his income in his hometown is not sufficient to meet his daily living needs. Therefore, to earn more income, Mr. Emanuel works elsewhere. As he explains below: "I work elsewhere because I want to increase my family's income

considering the number of dependents I have, which is 3 people. Also, if I work in my hometown, it is not enough to meet the needs of my wife and child." (Mr. Emanuel).

The following informant also expresses the same sentiment, stating that he works elsewhere to meet the needs of his family, and also wants to gain new experiences. As he articulates below: "I work in another area so that I can meet the needs of my life and my family. Also, I want to find new experiences that I have not found in my Hometown" (Mr. Kristoforus).

Based on the research results found by the researcher in the field, it was found that the driving factors of Racang Welak Village residents working elsewhere are several factors such as having more than 2 dependents, wanting to gain experience, and earning more income. Because in the Hometown, there are also those who work as seasonal farmers.

### *3.3 Factors attracting non-permanent mobility*

The use of capital can impact assets and the local economy. Imbalances in various regions prompt people to move from underdeveloped areas to more advanced ones due to economic factors. They then migrate to their hometown areas to continue their ancestral work. Progress made in the destination is one of the factors attracting mobility. This progress promises an improvement in quality of life because it has its own allure heard by families or felt personally by someone wishing to migrate, whether in terms of economics, transportation, entertainment, or career opportunities. As expressed by Mr. Kristoforus below:

"I work in Ruteng, precisely in one of the strategic workshops located near the transportation route, so there are many visitors who want to repair their vehicles, and this area is also a central part of the city. From there, I earn promising economic income" (Mr. Kristoforus).

Mr. Filipus also stated that his workplace is very strategic, located along transportation routes with quite a number of visitors, so his income is promising. As he expressed:

"I work in Lembor as a building supply storekeeper, and my income is quite substantial because this route is close to the main road, which is the entrance and exit route to Labuan Bajo-Ruteng. In addition, this place is also the center of Lembor's market, so many people want to buy building supplies for home construction or for agricultural purposes. And Lembor is also known for its vast agricultural fields" (Mr. Filipus).

Based on the research findings discovered by the researcher in the field, it is shown that there are many job opportunities in the destination areas. Furthermore, the workplaces are strategically located, which helps them in earning income.

## **4. Conclusions**

The researcher concluded that the uniqueness found in the field is that many residents engage in non-permanent mobility using private vehicles, and for those who do not have private vehicles, they still engage in non-permanent mobility using public transportation. Additionally, the researcher also found that there are residents of Desa Racang Welak who engage in non-permanent mobility solely to supplement their income and seek new experiences that can later be applied in their hometowns. This mobility is driven by economic factors as push factors and progress in the destination area as pull factors.

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All authors fully contributed to the writing of this article

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Not applicable.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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