

Available online at : <http://jurnalantropologi.fisip.unand.ac.id/>

Jurnal Antropologi: Isu-Isu Sosial Budaya

| ISSN (Online) 2355-5963 |



Empowerment of Women Former Migrant Workers Through Community-Based Education: a Case Study of The Community of Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI)

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

Submitted: 12nd November 2024

Review: 27th November 2024

Accepted: 07th December 2024

Published: 23rd December 2024

KEYWORDS

Community; women former migrant workers; empowerment

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A B S T R A C T

This research aims to describe the process of empowering women former migrant workers through community-based education in the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) Community. This research analyzes in depth the concept and strategy of community-based empowerment, which is expected to be a reference in the development of policies to empower women former migrant workers in Indonesia. The study was conducted in DESBUMI community in Jember Regency, with informants from community members, village government, and other related parties. This research used a qualitative approach with a case study method. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation, and analyzed by data reduction, presentation, conclusion drawing, and verification. The results show that the empowerment process includes three stages: awareness, capacity building, and empowerment. In the capacity building stage, the experiential learning cycle method is applied, which is tailored to the potential and needs of women former migrant workers. Interactions between community members strengthen collective learning through shared experiences. The community serves as a strategic platform to improve the knowledge, skills, participation, and economic independence of women former migrant workers, as well as supporting local economic development. This research makes an important contribution by confirming that community-based education is an effective strategy to empower women ex-migrant workers through strengthening individual capacity and social networks. The findings are expected to provide a relevant and applicable basis for the development of women's empowerment strategies in other migrant worker enclaves in Indonesia, as well as providing a scientific basis for more inclusive and sustainable policies.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI), as stipulated in law number 18 of 2017, refers to any Indonesian citizen who works abroad and receives wages. Indonesia is one of the largest contributors of migrant workers in the world. Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) shows that in 2020, Indonesia became the second largest migrant worker sending country in Southeast Asia, after the Philippines (Kamalina, 2023). The main provinces that are home to migrant workers include East Java, West Java, Central Java, West Nusa Tenggara, and Lampung (BP2MI, 2024). Sending migrant workers abroad contributes significantly to the country, especially in social and economic terms, such as expanding employment,

improving community welfare, and increasing foreign exchange (Sahroni, 2024). According to Bank Indonesia (BI), by 2023, foreign exchange from migrant workers will reach Rp230.81 trillion, or around 10% of Indonesia's total foreign exchange reserves (Komisi IX DPR RI, 2024).

Indonesian migrant workers are predominantly women, who play a significant role in the family and national economy. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), women account for around 44% of the total 4.6 million international migrants from Indonesia, making Indonesia one of the countries with the largest number of female migrant workers in Southeast Asia. (Wicaksono & Widya, 2023).

The Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI) report in 2023 recorded a total placement of 274,965 Indonesian migrant workers. Of this number, women dominate with 107,102 placements or around 61%. This figure shows the significant role of women as the backbone of the economy, not only for their families, but also in contributing to the country's foreign exchange. This fact underscores the importance of special attention to the needs, protection, and empowerment of women migrant workers, which continues to increase both in terms of numbers and impact.

Throughout 2023, 78,419 migrant workers returned to their areas of origin (BP2MI, 2024). Based on the mandate of Law No. 18/2017, the Indonesian government is fully responsible for protecting migrant workers, both active and retired. The law also regulates the rights of former migrant workers, including access to retraining, new job opportunities, and support in social reintegration. Special emphasis is placed on socio-economic empowerment, especially for women former migrant workers, who often face challenges in finding employment after returning from abroad (Rahmansyah, 2017).

However, at the implementation level, there are still a number of limitations. Many former migrant workers, especially women, face gaps between the promised policies and the reality on the ground, such as lack of access to quality training, lack of local employment opportunities, and constraints in social reintegration due to stigma or limited social networks. In this context, community-based empowerment can be a strategic solution to fill these gaps. By utilizing local potential and participatory approaches, communities can provide a platform that supports individual capacity building, social network building, and the creation of sustainable economic opportunities for women former migrant workers.

Empowering women former migrant workers is a strategic step to ensure they do not return to work abroad and are able to build economic independence in their hometowns. The main objective of this empowerment is to restore their social and economic functioning in order to fulfill their basic needs, while increasing their knowledge and skills in managing the remittances earned while working abroad (BP2MI, 2023). With this empowerment, former migrant women are expected to not only achieve self-reliance, but also contribute significantly to the welfare of their families and communities (Saleh et al., 2022).

Empowerment of women former migrant workers should be designed based on their needs and potential. Their work experience abroad has equipped them with a strong work ethic, high dedication, and discipline in time management and responsibility (Saleh et al., 2022). This discipline and dedication are competitive advantages that can be applied in various fields, both employment and entrepreneurship. In addition, adaptability, which grows from experience in cross-cultural work environments, is an important asset for them in facing the global or multinational job market (Saleh et al., 2022; Universitas Indonesia, 2023). These work experiences also strengthen independence and self-confidence, which are essential for leadership roles or in starting new ventures. Therefore, empowerment programs should take this unique potential into account so that women former migrant workers can optimally contribute to the economic and social sectors (Siti Imroatul Khuriah & Purnomo, 2023).

One of the main approaches to empowerment is through skills training and education, which includes

technical skills, entrepreneurship and further education. This training aims to strengthen women's role in the family economy and open up opportunities for them to start businesses or obtain better jobs (Uli & Hidayah, 2021). With these new skills, their dependence on migrant work is reduced, and they are able to create a more sustainable source of income for the family (Kemenko-PMK, 2023).

In addition to the government, the private sector also contributes to the empowerment of former migrant workers, one of which is Migrant CARE, an NGO that focuses on the issue of migrant workers. Migrant CARE established the *Desa Peduli Buruh Migran* (DESBUMI) program in collaboration with village governments in Indonesia. DESBUMI forms a women's community that becomes a forum for organizing at the village level, providing an empowerment center for women former migrant workers (Migrant CARE, 2019). DESBUMI communities in Indonesia have been established in 57 villages in five districts. One of them is in the district of Jember. Jember is one of the districts with a high number of migrant workers in East Java (Lenny Rosalin, 2022).

The existence of a community in an empowerment program like DESBUMI is very important for women former migrant workers. This community is not only a space to gather, but also a means of building solidarity and strengthening social networks among its members. Through this community, women ex-migrant workers can access training in new job skills, share experiences, and raise awareness about their rights in the social and economic spheres. The facility supports their reintegration into society, provides psychosocial support, and reduces the risk of exploitation or violence.

In addition, the community also serves as a forum to voice the aspirations and special needs of ex-migrant women to the government and other related institutions, so that empowerment programs can be designed more targeted and sustainable. With this empowerment community, former migrant women are better able to develop local economic businesses, strengthen family economic resilience, and contribute to village development.

This study aims to describe the process of empowering women former migrant workers through community-based education in the *Desa Peduli Buruh Migran* (DESBUMI) Community. Although the empowerment of women ex-migrant workers has become a concern of various parties, research related to the implementation of community-based education as the main strategy is still limited. This gap includes a lack of in-depth understanding of how community-based approaches can address the social, economic, and psychological reintegration challenges often experienced by women former migrant workers based on the specific potentials and needs of women ex-migrant workers. This research seeks to fill this gap by analyzing the concept and strategy of community-based empowerment, which is expected to not only provide a scientific contribution but also become a reference for more inclusive and applicable policies in empowering women former migrant workers in Indonesia.

METHOD

The research method applied in this study is qualitative research with a case study approach. According to Creswell (2017), qualitative research aims to explore and understand the meaning resulting from individual or group experiences related to social or

humanitarian issues. The case study approach used refers to Yin (2003), which allows researchers to investigate various cases related to the empowerment of women former migrant workers in the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) community. Case studies, as stated by Salim & Carolina (2001), function both as a method and a research outcome, which aims to study or interpret a "case" in its natural context without external intervention.

This research focuses on answering specific questions regarding the empowerment process of women former migrant workers in DESBUMI communities, as well as identifying empowerment strategies through community-based education. The research was conducted in four DESBUMI communities in Jember Regency, namely in Ambulu, Sabrang, Wonoasri, and Dukuh Dempok villages. The selection of these four villages was based on several important reasons. First, these four communities have been established since 2017 and are officially recorded in village regulations, demonstrating institutional commitment to the protection and empowerment of migrant workers.

Second, these villages have a significant number of women former migrant workers, thus providing sufficient data coverage to understand the challenges and opportunities in community-based empowerment. Third, the presence of DESBUMI communities in these villages has shown positive initial results in developing local economic potential through productive activities such as small businesses and skills training. As such, these villages provide a relevant and representative context for assessing the effectiveness of community-based empowerment strategies.

Data collection techniques included observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Meanwhile, data analysis followed four main steps according to Huberman (1994), namely (1) data collection, (2) data condensation, (3) data presentation, and (4) conclusion drawing or verification. The informants in this study were determined through a purposive sampling technique, which includes individuals who are directly related to the object of research, such as DESBUMI community members, village government, Migrant CARE staff, and related agencies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Various findings obtained in this study include an overview of women former migrant workers in four villages in Jember Regency which includes the potential and needs of women former migrant workers, the profile of the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) community, the empowerment process in the DESBUMI community by Migrant CARE, social capital in empowering women former migrant workers, and the DESBUMI community as a community-based education center.

1. Female former migrant workers

Female former migrant workers are those who have completed their tenure as laborers abroad and returned to Indonesia. They face a variety of social, economic and psychological challenges as they re-adapt to their home environment. In this process, women former migrant workers often need support to develop new skills, strengthen their economic independence, and reintegrate with their families and communities. In Jember district, the number of women former migrant workers is very large.

From the data of four villages, the number of women former migrant workers reaches more than 200 people. The four villages have village regulations that address the protection of migrant workers from the village and have conducted independent data collection for migrant workers and their families from the village. Women's activities Former migrant workers in the four villages are dominated by productive economic activities, in the form of grocery businesses, stalls, and products resulting from the utilization of surrounding resources. This is table of Economic Potential of Former Migrant Workers in Jember Regency.

Tabel 1. Economic Potential of Former Migrant Workers in Jember Regency.

Business Type	Number of Respondents	Description
Grocery Store	49	Small retail business for daily needs
Wet Processed Food	34	Businesses in the food industry, traditional preparations
Reseller	29	Sales of local or imported products
Services (Beauty, Laundry, etc.)	24	Services for the surrounding community
Instant Food and Drink	19	Sales of ready-to-eat food and beverages
Other Businesses	29	Includes handicrafts and local production

Based on the results of the economic potential survey conducted by Migrant CARE (2023), former migrant workers in Jember Regency show a strong ability in entrepreneurship, both individual and group businesses. Based on the survey, the most common types of businesses run include:

1. Grocery stores (49 respondents): Many former migrant workers have started small retail businesses such as grocery stores to fulfill the basic needs of the local community. This shows the vast market potential at the local level for everyday products.
2. Wet processed food (34 respondents): Former migrant workers are also active in the food industry, especially processed foods that are easily accessible to the community, such as traditional foods or snacks.
3. Resellers (29 respondents): Many former migrant workers are involved in product reselling, be it products from abroad or local products that are resold through various platforms.

In addition to the economic potential possessed by women former migrant workers, there are also various needs that are fundamental and closely related to the challenges they face. Based on the results of interviews and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) activities, several important needs were identified to support their economic sustainability and welfare. First, access to information related to employment is needed so that they can return to work or start a new business in accordance with their skills. Second, social security for former migrant workers and their families is also an important need to ensure continuous protection. Third, they need access to participate in development planning at the local and

national levels, enabling them to take part in decision-making that affects their lives. Fourth, individual and group capacity building is needed to increase their economic confidence and skills. Fifth, access to capital to start productive economic enterprises is essential so that they can create jobs for themselves. Finally, they also need access to empowerment services and government services from both the local and central government to support sustainable improvements in their socio-economic conditions.

2. Community profile of Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI)

Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) is a local village-based initiative designed to provide protection and empowerment for migrant workers, especially women, from the time they are in their village of origin. Developed by Migrant CARE and supported by the MAMPU Program, DESBUMI communities aim to support prospective migrant workers as well as those who have returned to the village by providing education, skills training and ongoing social support. DESBUMI serves as an information center, where villagers gain access to important information on migrant workers' rights and safe migration procedures. In addition, DESBUMI helps women former migrant workers develop independent businesses and contribute to local economic development. Through cross-agency support and cooperation with the village government, the community plays an important role in increasing the economic independence, social participation, and active engagement of former migrant workers in their own communities.

Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) is a community-based program that aims to provide comprehensive support to migrant workers, especially women, from their villages of origin. DESBUMI focuses on protecting, empowering, and improving access to services for migrant workers through several key initiatives:

1. Information Services: Establish an Integrated Information Service Center (P2IT) to provide information on the migration process, as well as help prospective migrant workers and their families understand the rights and procedures that must be followed before working abroad.
2. Document Services: Provides assistance with important documents such as ID cards, family cards, and certificates for prospective migrant workers to facilitate the legalization of departure.
3. Economic Empowerment: Supporting groups of former migrant workers to develop entrepreneurial skills and other economic potential in the village, in order to increase economic independence after returning from abroad.
4. Paralegals: Provide legal assistance to migrant workers and their families through paralegal training in villages, so that they can understand their legal rights and get help in overcoming legal problems.
5. Village Regulations: DESBUMI works with village governments to draft regulations that protect the rights of migrant workers, ensuring that there is a local legal umbrella that supports the welfare of migrant workers and their families.

6. Safe Migration: Conduct socialization and education to villagers on safe migration procedures, thus minimizing the risks faced by migrant workers while abroad.

7. Data Collection of Migrant Workers and Families: Conduct regular data collection on migrant workers and their families in the village, in order to provide more targeted services and monitor their condition after returning to the village.

The DESBUMI program is in line with Migrant CARE and MAMPU's efforts to strengthen migrant worker protection at the village level through a collaborative approach between village governments, communities and supporting organizations. Its focus on education, economic empowerment, and legal protection makes DESBUMI a model of an effective migrant worker care community in Indonesia.

3. Empowerment process in DESBUMI community by Migrant CARE

The empowerment of women former migrant workers in the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) community is carried out through three stages, namely awareness, capacity building, and empowerment. The following is an explanation of each process:

Awareness

Awareness raising is the initial process that must be done in empowerment. Based on information from Migrant CARE staff as community empowerment facilitators, the awareness process in the DESBUMI community is carried out using the "senasib" and "seperjuangan" approach. Where the empowerment facilitator together with the cadres of this community approach the women former migrant workers in the area. Conducting an assessment through a simple dialog with various questions about the process of becoming a migrant worker, activities during and after becoming a migrant worker, and problems that have been experienced. This is done repeatedly like a confiding session and telling stories about the ups and downs during the process of becoming a migrant worker before working, while working, and after returning to their hometowns.

In the next stage, the community empowerment facilitator and cadres held a meeting with women migrant workers who had been assessed. At this stage they are brought together and discuss the problems that occur to them, which are divided into three phases, before work, during work, and after work. The technique is done through brainstorming using sticky notes in a participatory manner. The problems that were collected were then discussed in the forum, analyzed and several figures and practitioners provided comments.

This stage begins to form awareness in women former migrant workers that they have problems and potential that they themselves do not realize. This stage involves their experiences during the process of becoming migrant workers. So that they learn from the experiences they have gone through. And then, the empowerment facilitator or empowerment facilitator helps to prioritize problems and potentials to be made into a program. This program will be used as a material or topic in every meeting that will be conducted on an ongoing basis using the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) technique.

Based on the observations of the facilitators with the evidence of empowerment documents, the awareness process for women former migrant workers carried out in the village community caring for migrant workers has achieved physical, emotional, mental involvement, ideas, and ideas from members to identify and understand problems and find solutions to the problems they face. The approach taken when identifying problems and potentials to prioritizing problems and potentials uses a reflection approach from direct experience or experiential learning cycle. The participation of members who are members of the village group caring for migrant workers is very good as evidenced by participation in every activity and activeness in discussions and commitment in participating in various activities carried out in the group.

In this awareness stage, empowerment facilitators try to raise their awareness to realize that they have a problem that must be solved. In addition, it provides an understanding to the community that they have rights that have been guaranteed by law. With this they will realize that they need access to empowerment programs, and with the right platform, namely the community. In this community they will be explored for their potential, and realize that they have interesting potential compared to women in general, so that it can arouse their motivation to develop, and participate in education and training activities carried out in the community.

Based on information from community members, the awareness process carried out so far has been very effective, where they can feel more valuable and have the enthusiasm to fight better. Previously they only thought of surviving with the situation and makeshift strength. But over time, with the sharing and discussion with fellow migrant workers and practitioners and the government, they began to realize that they have extraordinary potential.

Next is Capacitating. At this stage, the empowerment facilitator fully believes that every former migrant worker has the potential that can be developed in the process of capacity building. Women former migrant workers have enormous potential due to the experiences they go through and get before working, while working, and after working abroad. Women former migrant workers are considered to have a disciplined and hardworking attitude, and are highly adaptive because they have processed work in different countries with great pressure, challenges, and risks. In addition, in operating something that is completely digital and advanced, socio-cultural knowledge, and skills at work are also considered very high compared to women in general. So that at the stage of capacity building, migrant workers show their ability to learn very quickly and easily adjust.

This is evidenced by the existence of several programs carried out including training on financial literacy, improving product quality for women former migrant workers who have productive economic businesses, and training in the operation of digital technology to support daily activities. The form of education and training conducted through DESBUMI community covers various issues, such as capacity building and knowledge on safe migration, paralegal, advocacy of migrant worker cases, productive economic enterprises, public speaking, strengthening partnership networks,

policy advocacy in development planning from village, national, to global levels. Each process is carried out in a participatory manner by involving women former migrant workers as subjects and objects in empowerment.

Many women former migrant workers who are members of the DESBUMI group have the capacity to create business products, ranging from various food products, snacks or snacks, herbal drinks, batik, ecoprint, and various products made from other natural resources. Not only in the form of products, women former migrant workers also have skills in the digital field such as online selling, simple video editing, and operating computers. This makes it very easy for empowerment facilitators to determine training programs. The division of classes can be adjusted to the needs and interests of the talents of each former migrant worker. Not only that, women former migrant workers who have knowledge and skills can also provide learning and sharing knowledge to fellow members in the DESBUMI community. So that the capacity building process can be carried out in a participatory manner according to the needs of each group member.

Based on the explanation from Migrant CARE, the empowerment process that occurs in the DESBUMI community is carried out using the experiential learning cycle approach. This is an educational method that involves experiential learning. This approach consists of four stages, which integrate real experiences and reflection to support deeper and sustainable learning.

1. Concrete Experience: The first stage where participants are directly involved in a real activity or situation. For example, women former migrant workers can try practicing new skills relevant to their needs, such as self-employment or other technical skills.
2. Reflective Observation: After experiencing the situation, participants are invited to reflect on and observe what has happened, either in the form of discussion or note-taking personal. This reflection helps them understand the outcome of the experience, notice challenges, and formulate lessons learned.
3. Abstract Conceptualization: At this stage, participants begin to formulate concepts or theories based on their reflections. They relate experiences to principles or theories that can be used to understand the situation more broadly.
4. Active Experimentation: This final stage involves applying learned concepts to new situations. Participants try out new strategies or approaches that have been devised, strengthening their skills through continued practice.

This approach is effective in capacitating because it allows participants to learn from real experiences and improve skills gradually, which is very useful for strengthening independence and capacity in daily life. Enrichment

Capacity building activities that have been received in the form of knowledge and skills must be carried out in a sustainable manner and monitored regularly. At the enrichment stage, the empowerment facilitator, in this case Migrant CARE, opens the way and access to various services, so that the results of capacity building can be maximized. This access is in the form of partnership

networks, capitalization, and strengthening knowledge and skills. This final stage focuses on providing support for community members so that they can apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired. Enablement involves facilitating resources, policy support, and access to economic or social opportunities so that the community can become sustainably independent, strengthen self-reliance, and improve welfare. In addition, women former migrant workers can teach each other, use their experiences to learn from each other, and continue to develop themselves not only in socio-economic aspects, but also participation and access to politics and development planning.

In the empowerment stage, the end result will provide an opportunity for each individual to become independent and understand by identifying shortcomings and improving them for the next empowerment program. In addition, it is expected that they can independently implement the results of capacity building. And equipped with skills to expand the network to create opportunities for survival and form the independence of each individual. In the empowerment process, women former migrant workers are given full power to involve themselves in evaluating the program, so they are given access to speak in public to give opinions, provide input and suggestions, and find problem solving, and express initiative ideas and ideas for improvement.

4. Social capital in empowering women former migrant workers

Based on the results of a survey conducted by Migrant CARE, women former migrant workers in four villages in Jember district carry out activities in their hometowns, one of which is by carrying out productive economic activities. The choice of activities is based on the "general" habits of former migrant women to utilize the remittances they get from working abroad. Women former migrant workers who are members of the community usually carry out "gethok tular" activities or commonly called sharing information and experiences. So that there is a process of mutual learning in the community. They realize that by joining the community they get many benefits, one of which is getting ideas for making products and getting customers to market their products.

Interviews with 20 representatives from the four communities found that they were happy to be able to organize, because they felt they had a place to channel their hobbies and forget about their problems for a while. By gathering with fellow former migrant women, they freely and openly interact and share about activities during the process of becoming migrant workers and activities while in their hometowns. So that indirectly they share information and knowledge that can ultimately help them to survive in their hometowns.

Social capital in this empowerment process comes from individuals or each member, and from the DESBUMI community itself. The existence of this social capital is inseparable from the efforts made by Migrant CARE as a companion or facilitator of empowerment from the DESBUMI community. The social capital owned by individuals is in the form of a network of former migrant workers with migrant workers who are still actively working abroad. Not only that, the emergence of a sense of trust and kinship due to a sense of "fate" also strengthens the relationship between individuals in the DESBUMI community. In addition, there are unwritten values and norms among them as individuals who have worked

abroad and lived in the village. Norms and values shared by women former workers migrants are generally formed from their experiences while working abroad, which include aspects of family responsibility, community solidarity, and adaptation and resilience.

Social capital originating from the community takes the form of partnership networks with village and district governments, and other institutions such as NGOs, companies and universities. This social capital is very beneficial for the community to get a lot of support both in the form of empowerment programs and access to information and capital. The empowerment carried out in the DESBUMI community does not only come from internal programs, but also from external programs, be it from Migrant CARE as a companion, the village government that oversees it, the district government, community service programs from universities, CSR from companies, and programs from the central government.

Support from the local community plays an important role in the success of women ex-migrant workers' businesses, especially in building strong social networks. Solidarity among former migrant women, such as in the DESBUMI community, provides a space to share inspiring experiences and knowledge. This network is not only a source of motivation, but also opens access to market information, business capital, and potential cooperation. In this context, the social capital built within the DESBUMI community, which involves mutually supportive relationships between members, as well as with the village government and other organizations, strengthens women's ability to develop their businesses.

Training is an important component in increasing the capacity of women former migrant workers. Through community-based programs that utilize the experiential learning cycle, women can learn from hands-on experience, which develops new skills relevant to local market needs. Training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and digital technology management provide essential skills to manage businesses more effectively. However, despite their great potential, women ex-migrant workers face various challenges. Limited business capital, limited access to markets, and social stigma are often major obstacles.

In addition, while many women ex-migrant workers have technical skills, they still need support in marketing strategies and overall business management. This is the important role that social capital plays in the community. Through the networks that have been built, women former migrant workers can obtain the information needed to overcome these obstacles, as well as gain access to additional resources, whether from other community members, the village government, NGOs, or external partnerships. The social capital formed within the DESBUMI community helps them not only overcome social and economic barriers, but also expand their business opportunities with support from various related parties.

5. DESBUMI community as a community-based education center

Community of Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) is a community-based initiative that focuses on the protection and empowerment of migrant workers and former migrant workers in villages. By acting as a community-based education center, DESBUMI helps to increase knowledge, skills, participation, and economic independence, especially for women former migrant workers, who generally return with the need to adjust to

local economic and social conditions. Some of the main functions of DESBUMI communities include:

1. **Economic Skills Training**
DESBUMI provides skills training, including entrepreneurship, financial management, and other technical skills. The training aims to enable women former migrant workers to develop independent businesses, increase family income, and contribute to the local economy.
2. **Information and Service Center**
As a community-based education center, DESBUMI provides access to information needed by migrant worker families, such as information on migrant workers' rights, their children's education, and social services. DESBUMI also established an Integrated Information Service Center (PPIT) to manage data on the mobility of residents who become migrant workers.
3. **Encouraging Social and Economic Participation**
DESBUMI promotes women's participation in economic and social activities, for example through joint business groups and cooperatives. By increasing participation, DESBUMI helps women former migrant workers become active members in village development and reduce economic dependence on the family.
4. **Rights Awareness and Advocacy**
The community also raises awareness about the rights of migrant workers and advocates for protection and regulations that support the sustainability of migrant workers' welfare after returning to the village.

Through a community-based approach, DESBUMI plays a strategic role in improving the quality of life of former migrant workers and integrating them into the local economy and community.

6. Community-based empowerment

Community based empowerment is a development approach that focuses on strengthening the active role of community members in managing their potential. Through this approach, communities are empowered to develop their capacity, skills, and independence, so that they are able to achieve prosperity and improve their quality of life in a sustainable manner. In this concept, the community is not only the object of development, but also acts as the main subject that utilizes and manages the resources around them to improve existing social and economic conditions.

For female former migrant workers, community-based empowerment has proven to be very effective. They believe that gathering in groups such as women former migrant groups is the first step in organizing themselves and building networks, especially with the village government (Aziz & Sudiarawan, 2022). This organizational ability increases their productivity and social capital, allowing former migrant groups to access capital assistance and training through available empowerment programs (Seftiani et al., 2024).

Yuniarto's (2019) research examining the empowerment of Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan through community-based education successfully demonstrated an increase in individual skills and economic

independence. Nonetheless, this study highlights more on the international context, in contrast to this study which focuses on local-level empowerment through communities such as DESBUMI. This finding is even more relevant when compared to Solihah's (2016) study, which highlights the role of local institutions in supporting community economic sustainability. In this case, the community-based empowerment model applied in DESBUMI shows that a similar approach can be applied with great flexibility, both on an international and local scale, with more in-depth customization according to the specific needs of the local community.

In addition, community empowerment also supports economic independence, as people are given the opportunity to manage local businesses that support their livelihoods (Solihah, 2016). This approach encourages active involvement in the development process, creating a greater sense of ownership of the program (Mardikanto & Soebianto, 2017). Through continuous training and support, communities can hone skills that support their livelihoods (Mardikanto & Soebianto, 2017). long-term development and prepare for various socio-economic challenges (Hikmawati, 2019).

Cooperation within the community forms strong networks, creates solidarity and strengthens social cohesion among members. Together, people build collective strength to help and support each other, making the community a space to grow together (Seftiani et al., 2024).

Thus, the empowerment of women former migrant workers carried out in the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) community is an effective platform to strengthen women's participation in local resource management. Through DESBUMI, former migrant workers can organize, share experiences, and build a strong network to support their economic independence. The program also provides access to skills training, capital assistance, and opportunities to improve the competitiveness of local businesses, ultimately strengthening their position in society.

In addition, DESBUMI acts as a bridge between the former migrant worker community and the village government, enabling better synergy in addressing the social and economic challenges they face. By actively engaging in this empowerment program, the women former migrant workers not only gain economic benefits, but also create solidarity that strengthens social cohesion, increases self-confidence, and expands access to various social supports available in their communities.

The importance of community-based education

Community-based education has a significant impact in increasing community capacity through relevant and sustainable approaches (Fauziddin et al., 2022; UNESCO, 2017). One concrete example of the application of this education is the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) Community, which has successfully increased the economic and social independence of women former migrant workers. DESBUMI plays an important role in community empowerment through various key functions that effectively support the goals of community-based education.

The education process implemented in this community focuses on individual development within the group through training in entrepreneurship, financial management and technical skills. These trainings aim to empower women former migrant workers to build

independent businesses, increase family income, and contribute to the local economy (Saleh et al., 2022; Yuniarto, 2019). Community-based education, as implemented by DESBUMI, has been proven to create entrepreneurial opportunities that can be directly applied by the community.

Several studies support that community education serves as a means to increase social awareness and individual rights. DESBUMI, as an information center, provides education related to migrant workers' rights and social services for their families. This helps communities better deal with economic and social challenges (Hikmawati, 2019; Mardikanto & Soebianto, 2017). In addition, community education encourages active participation, by getting women former migrant workers involved in joint business groups and cooperatives (Dewi & Yazid, 2017; Solihah, 2016). This participation strengthens their direct involvement in local decision-making and policies, and supports collective well-being (Seftiani et al., 2024; Yuniarto, 2019).

Community education also tailors its programs to the needs of the local market. DESBUMI, for example, provides entrepreneurship and technical skills training relevant to the village environment, helping participants to better adapt and contribute to their communities (Solihah, 2016). In this case, community-based education becomes a strategic solution to create a more economically and socially independent society (Hilman & Nimasari, 2018).

Through this approach, community education not only helps to address unemployment and improve job skills, but also creates an independent, critical and participatory society. DESBUMI serves as a platform for women former migrant workers to acquire the skills and information needed to start or expand a business. With three main empowerment stages of awareness, capacity building, and empowerment, as well as an experiential learning cycle approach, the community promotes effective experiential learning. DESBUMI's empowerment has a positive impact on individuals and helps to drive the local economy, strengthen social ties within the community, and contribute to the overall well-being of society. Thus, community-based education not only empowers individuals economically, but also serves to create a more independent, critical and participatory society.

CONCLUSION

Empowerment of women former migrant workers through community-based education within the Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (DESBUMI) community is effective through three main stages: awareness, capacity building, and empowerment. Each stage plays an important role in supporting the social and economic transformation of women ex-migrant workers, with the main goal of increasing their independence and ensuring their contribution to local development. At the awareness stage, women ex-migrant workers are introduced to their rights and unrealized potential, which builds an understanding that they have the ability to develop. The capacity building stage involves training in relevant skills, such as financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and technical skills, tailored to their experiences and needs. The training integrates an experiential learning cycle approach, which allows community members to learn through hands-on experience and improve their skills in a participatory and collaborative manner. The empowerment stage, which is the final stage, provides support for access to resources,

partnership networks, and capitalization to enable ex-migrant women to apply the skills and knowledge gained in their lives.

These three stages of empowerment are interrelated and form a continuous process, which promotes the empowerment of women ex-migrant workers in their socio-economic context. Community-based empowerment through DESBUMI has proven to be effective in increasing the knowledge, skills, participation, and economic independence of women ex-migrant workers, as well as strengthening social ties at the village level. Thus, community-based education is a relevant and applicable strategy to empower women ex-migrant workers and address the socio-economic challenges they face after returning home.

Policy Recommendations:

1. The government and related institutions are expected to integrate community-based empowerment models in national policies, especially for migrant worker enclaves.
2. Greater funding for education-based empowerment programs should be prioritized, to ensure sustainability and wider reach.
3. Expand access to locally relevant empowerment services and training to enable women ex-migrant workers to adapt more quickly and develop independent businesses.
4. Encourage stronger collaboration between village governments, NGOs, and the private sector to support more comprehensive and targeted empowerment programs for women ex-migrant workers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This paper is written based on part of the thesis. For this reason, we would like to thank our beloved alma mater, Yogyakarta State University and the informants of this research, as well as from LPDP which has provided sponsorship for research and publication of this paper.

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