

Building Inclusive Action to Children Through PEDULI Program

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Abstract: Sending female migrant workers to work overseas had caused problems for workers' children. The problems occurred including difficulties to get birth certificate for children with unmarried foreign father where the mother works, parents' history of contagious diseases, prone situation to crimes act such as gang quarrel, drug abuse, sex before marriage, and unwed pregnancy. This research aims to comprehend the problems related to migrant workers' children and the role of PEDULI program to provide a solution in facing the problems. Data gathered by conducting interview and observation. The research was conducted in Tulungagung, East Java. Informants for this research are children and family of migrant workers, community figures, Child Protection Agency, and government agencies. Data analysis was executed by connecting interview result with observation and further analysis of the data. The research shows that the most common problems faced by migrant workers' children are no ownership of birth certificate, crimes act, and free sex. One solution proposed to overcome the issue was taken through the establishment of PEDULI program as one approach to handling the problems related to migrant workers' children. In conclusion, it was found that PEDULI program is an act of community participation to develop inclusive treatment towards migrant workers' children who were prone to exclusive treatment from the surrounding society. Without protection to those children, they will become a victim of social pressure which could influence their behavior in the future.

1 INTRODUCTION

Community participation which developed to avoid the act of exclusion from any group is perceived as an indicator of social participation in community development program (Shortall, 2008). Community development is characterized by avoidance of labelling form several groups or society which regarded socially different with the prevailing culture. Community development is essential to attract participation from all stakeholders. According to Cornwall (2008), the concept of participation is beneficial to invite participation from all parties to get involved in the activity.

A community development activities performed by Tulungagung society is known as PEDULI program. PEDULI program is a program initiated by the local community in cooperation with Child Protection Agency (Lembaga Perlindungan Anak/LPA). In 2014, PEDULI program gained support from Coordinating Ministry of Human Resources and Culture.

PEDULI program aims to cover the group of vulnerable children, particularly migrant workers'

children. The program was intended as a precondition for ensuring that children, including children of migrant workers, grow and thrive, are protected and fulfilled their physical and psychological needs (Asia Foundation, 2016).

According to Wong (2007), the poverty experienced by marginalized migrant workers' children were not only caused by economic condition, but also because of social exclusion manifested in stigmatization and discrimination of social justice and social right.

In general, social exclusion is understood as the process in which individuals or group of people are systematically denied from full access to various rights, opportunities and resources which supposed to be available for members of a different group, and which are fundamental to social integration and observance of human rights within that particular group (Millar, 2007). According to Pierson (2002), Peace (2001) and Byrne (2005) social exclusion is an inequality and the formation of social classes in society caused by a collection of all persons or individuals not included in the social security system. This process of social exclusion is a result of

government development policy and it may also occur as a result of the interaction between community groups in a relation where there is a group that excludes and there are other who are excluded (Jarman, 2001; Gough et al., 2006; Sujatmiko, 2011).

Most exclusion cases experienced by children of migrant workers were not having a birth certificate. Each year in East Java Province, about 2,000 children are not having birth certificates. This problem was caused by several factors, among others, unable to fulfill administrative requirements such as ID cards, incomplete family card (*Kartu Keluarga*) and parent's marriage certificate. There were cases where all those documents were still being used as guarantee by the family of migrant workers. Children of migrant workers who were born overseas were often not having birth certificate because their parents did not immediately proceed to have the birth certificate while they were overseas. In few cases, not having birth certificate also related to children of female migrant workers who were born out of extramarital relationships.

Another acute problem related to children of migrant workers was their susceptibility to especially crime effects such as brawls, drugs, sexually transmitted diseases. Data from the Child Protection Institution (LPA) Tulungagung indicates that there are about 70% children of migrant workers involved in crime. The position of the children of migrant worker is indeed vulnerable because the percentage of those not obtaining parental affection are high. Data from LPA Tulungagung shows that there are about 29,000 those children of migrant workers who are still in the school age in these districts.

PEDULI program emerged as a strategy to reach inclusivity for migrant workers' children to reduce the social gap due to the stigmatization and discrimination executed by the surrounding society. Migrant workers' children have long been ignored. It creates social inclusion, intentionally or unintentionally, by the group who exclude the children or for the excluded group. Through this program and support from society, LPA and Human Resources and Culture Agency, the program is expected to develop an inclusive social relation in the community which free from stigmatization and discrimination. Therefore, this article aims to comprehend the problems of migrant workers' children and the role of PEDULI program in providing solutions to overcome the related problems.

2 RESEACH METHODS

In order to obtain data and empirical information, this research employs descriptive research type with a qualitative approach. Research location was purposively decided and Tulungagung chosen due to several reasons. a) Several villages in Tulungagung face a major problem in the child-care method for children whose parents work as migrant worker. B. The number of migrant workers is much higher than the data of migrant workers registered in Regional Office of Manpower. According to Regional Office of Manpower, the officially registered migrant workers' number in Tulungagung is 5.090 workers. C. Related to the birth certificate for unwed children between working mother and father originated from the country where the mother works in 2016 has not yet gained support to simplify the birth certificate registration process. D. Children without proper care are prone to high risk of deviant behavior when they reach teenage. E. There is a growing stigma in the society for children born with HIV/AIDS, unwed children and children with divorced parents.

The second step is data collection. In collecting the data, observation had done to find behavioral problems in migrant workers' children and exclusion treatment from society. In addition, researchers also held Focus Group Discussion to observe the role of DINAS PSDM, Child Protection Agency and community figures in responding the problems of exclusion for migrant workers' children.

The third step is the in-depth interview. In this stage, researchers designed several main questions as guidelines to open the question. Questions were proposed based on the answer from the main question.

The fourth step is to decide informants; including 2 community figures, 4 Child Agency Protection staff, 3 The Office of Human Resources' staffs and 5 children who experienced exclusion from society. The last step is data analysis. The data was classified and identified based on the theme for further analysis.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Problem of Children Migrant Worker: An Exclusion Treatment from Their Surrounding Community

Based on the data from The Regional Office of Manpower, 5.090 migrant workers have worked

overseas. 90% of them are female migrant workers aged from 18-40 years old, have family and children. In accordance with the research from Hondagneu-Sotelo and Avila (1997) stated that 75% of 153 female migrant workers in Latin America (Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala) have children. Another research in Sri Lanka stated that 217 respondents have 1-4 children in average. 62 % have 1-2 children (Ukwatta, 2010). Many problems occurred when a child left by his mother to work overseas.

The problems experienced by migrant workers' children were extremely complex, including difficulties in obtaining a birth certificate for unwed children in the country where the mother work, parents with a history of a contagious disease, prone to criminal activities such as gang quarrel, drug abuse, free sex and unwed pregnancy. The result from the FGD shows that in Tulungagung, there was a migrant workers' child who delivered a baby without marriage form a father she knew from Facebook. From their virtual introduction, they took a trip to another city before the man disappeared.

Migrant workers' children were often visited Prigi, a location in Trenggalek, to do free sex. The dim area in Prigi was often used for free sex activities. This was proven by the scattered remaining in the area such as tissue, condom, and underwear.

Aside of free sex, migrant workers' children spend the remittance money from their parents to purchase drugs. The remittance money send by female migrant workers is usually the main source to cover family expenses such as for kid's education, expenses for family members, and for nanny's salary (Hondagneu-Sotelo and Avila 1997; Parreñas, 2001)

Those children obtain drugs from a coffee shop. According to Reza (16 years old), a child of migrant workers who were in 10th grade in vocational high school claimed that "migrant workers' children in school are often skipped class to buy coffee in the coffee shop, mam, to purchase cigarette and drugs. They rarely appeared in class, tardiness in attending class, and skipped homework."

From Reza's statement, it was clearly expressed that there have been many problems occurred to migrant worker's children. Those kids initially ask permission to their guardian to go to school. In fact, they skipped class and went to the coffee shop to consume drugs. It indicates that the remittance money from their parents is not well managed by the children.

Reza's statement was supported by Sri from Education and Culture Department:

"Migrant workers' children are always troubled, mam. They did not work on their homework,

smoking, having unwed pregnancy, free sex, and consuming drugs. They cause troubles every day."

Sri's statement from Education Agency and cultures indicates that migrant workers' children are certainly troubled which lead to exclusion treatment to those children, thus they become marginalized.

Another exclusion experienced by the children are the surrounding society often called them as "souvenir kids". The nickname pinned to a child whose father is a foreigner from the country where the mother works, whether the parents are married or not. The mother then delivered a baby with different physical appearance. The pressure endured by those children heavily influences their behavior such as low self-esteem, lack of confidence, introvert, constantly feels guilty, and unwilling to communicate with society. According to Ukwatta (2010), the effect from female migrant workers to their children is apparent in child development. The void left by the working mother cause loneliness and social problems to their children low self-esteem, depression, prone to anger, and high probability to involved in violence act.

The implications of this unbalanced family structure to the children are neglected children, lack of supervision and care, and careless father to the child (Parreñas, 2005). Even, in teenager age they are exposed to the risk of unwed pregnancy, involvement in violence gang, and drug abuse in their environment, lack of care from their grandparents. Furthermore, they do not have any substantial achievement in school and experienced complex social problems (Ukwatta, 2010).

3.2 Developing inclusive action to migrant workers' children through PEDULI program

PEDULI program is an approach program model based on social inclusion concept. Social inclusion is a process to develop social relations by respecting individual and community so that they could fully participate in the social process. The concept allows every party to involve in the decision-making process, to fulfil their economic needs, to have social interaction and involved in the political and cultural process, and to have equal access toward resources in fulfilling human basic needs. The social inclusion process is attempted to achieve proper welfare standard in the society (Program Peduli, 2015). The process of social inclusion opens many opportunities for individual or group to achieve their basic right as a human being and citizen of a country, for examples, are to build networking and to have the opportunity

of self-development as the consequences of the social exclusion they experienced.

The strategies built through PEDULI program to cover the problems of migrant workers' children are:

3.2.1 Increasing Access to Basic Service for Migrant Workers' Children

Migrant workers' children have right to access basic services in order to support their self-development. The social exclusion they faced caused them difficulties to access basic services such as education, health services, and social aid. This was because they do not have self-identity such as family card and birth certificate. Moreover, they got a label as troubled kids who were nearly expelled from school.

Effort from PEDULI programs is designed to stimulate service before following up the process with policy advocacy, starting from village level to local government level to ensure that every children and teenager who previously experienced social exclusion have the equal access for just and fair basic needs fulfillment resources. In Kesambi Village, this program has been implemented from elementary school to senior high school.

3.2.2 Increasing Empowerment and Open Social Reconciliation Media for Migrant Workers' Children to Gain Acceptance from Society

In general, migrant workers' children are eventually losing confidence and became an introvert. Therefore, there is an urgency to develop a strategy to empower those children to increase their confidence. Thus, they will be able to interact with the surrounding society. Empowerment to develop behavior such as appreciation to other, communication technique, leadership, and refusal to get involved in violence act is necessary.

3.2.3 Advocating Policy in Various Levels to Realize Sustainable Social Inclusion to Migrant Workers' Children

Regulation and policy are expected to guarantee the acceptance of migrant workers' children to the society. There is a strong need of strategic effort to formulate a conducive regulation and policy like less complication to register for birth certificate, to be fully embrace in education, and to be simplified in accessing health insurance as written in Constitution number 23 year 2002 about child protection. This

policy should be implemented from village level to regency level in order to realize sustainable policy to achieve children eligible regency. If the policy is well implemented, it could improve the positive image of Tulungagung as sister city to be set as an example and to be performed by another regency.

Inclusive treatment to migrant worker's children could be realized with if these three criteria met. According to Shortall (2008) social inclusive treatment to them is an act of acknowledgement to their existence. For migrant workers' children, this will open the possibility to society to recognize their presence, to acknowledge their right of protection, to be nurtured, to have the chance to interact and develop themselves, and to express and to state their opinion, along with other right attached.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of PEDULI program is an act of social participation in order to achieve community development to build inclusive treatment toward migrant workers' children. Without protection for those children, the pressure for them will heavily influence their behavior such as low self-esteem, lack of confidence, introvert behavior, guilty, and unwilling to communicate with the surrounding society.

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