



## Family Resilience of Indonesian Migrant Worker (PMI) as a Pillar of Social Development in Serang Regency, Banten Province

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### **Abstract**

*Serang Regency is one of the areas recorded as an area with a relatively high incidence of Out Migration due to the large number of residents leaving the area, including for work purposes. This will directly or indirectly have an impact on family resilience which will affect aspects of family resources and family welfare. Several threats to family resilience in the research location include the difficulty of finding work due to high unemployment rates, high poverty rates, and low health status. The theory of family resilience used in this article uses Physical, Economic, Socio-Cultural and Psychological Cultural Aspects (Sunarti, E. 2008). The research location is Pontang District as a representative of rural areas and has the status as one of the national scale migrant worker sending pockets. The method used is descriptive quantitative, supported by qualitative analysis. The research population is Indonesian Migrant Worker (PMI) families in Pontang District were then sampled using the Slovin formula. The aspects recorded as having high resilience are Physical and Socio-Cultural, while the Economic and Socio-Psychological aspects are recorded as having low resilience. There are several things that need to be improved related to the achievement of sustainable development, especially in pillar of social development. Improving the economic aspect can be done through the utilization of local potential and empowering the family economy, while the social psychological aspect is done through optimizing family understanding of children's development and relationships and involving children in family decision making.*

*Keywords: Family Resilience, Indonesian Migrant Worker Families (PMI), Social Development*

### **1. Introduction**

The HDI (Human Development Index) of Serang Regency in 2023 is 68.39, far below the average HDI figure for Banten Province of 73.87 [1]. These figures show that the Serang Regency Government must continue to strive to increase the HDI through sharing policies, programs and regional actions that are able to increase the HDI figure to at least the same as the HDI of Banten Province.

The results of the initial study in Serang Regency show that the typology of female migrant workers in Serang Regency is broadly divided into two parts, namely Circular Migrants and Commuter Migrants. The characteristics of these two migrants are 15-25 years of productive age, secondary school education and motives. The main reason for mobility is for economic reasons. These female workers move at closer distances than men and do so in stages, starting from neighboring villages, then neighboring sub-districts, then heading to the economic and industrial center of the district [2].

One of the problems that arise regarding family resilience in this region is the relatively high number of female Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) sent abroad. Parenting patterns that are not optimal for children whose parents have left them will definitely be different from children who have complete parents, especially the presence of a mother beside them. The development of the times and the fast flow of information obtained from TV

and internet media influence children's psychological development quickly. Children must receive sufficient supervision from their parents to control their relationships, this is where the role of parents, especially mothers, is very necessary. However, this will not be optimal if one parent cannot supervise directly. Apart from that, the financial management of most PMI families is still very poor, most families in the country cannot manage the money sent every month by PMIs so that when they stop working their financial income stops producing nothing.

Family resilience is the dynamic condition of a family that has tenacity and toughness and contains physical-material and psychological-mental-spiritual abilities to live independently and develop themselves and their families to live in harmony in improving physical well-being and inner happiness [3]. Law No. 10 of 1992 indicates that building family resilience is very important in efforts to integrate all family members as development subjects. Therefore, building family resilience is an effort to improve the quality of family life. This is intended to create a sense of security and hope for a better future in realizing physical prosperity and inner happiness. The family resilience theory used in this paper is related to the family's capability in managing existing problems based on their own abilities so that the family's needs are met; The measures used include input components consisting of physical and non-physical resources, process

components consisting of family management, whether or not the family is correct, coping mechanisms and output processes, among others, characterized by the fulfillment of physical and psychosocial needs [4].

The urgency and priority of research in this area is that there are several threats (vulnerabilities) to family resilience which show a negative increasing pattern. The difficulty of finding work due to high unemployment rates, high poverty rates, and marginalization of the rural economy is a serious threat that is starting to occur so that people have to work and leave their areas to get better welfare. When one of the family members, namely the father or mother, leaves the family to improve their level of welfare for a long period of time, this will have an impact on family resilience. The parenting function and other functions will not work well, resulting in the family's resilience becoming weak. This is reinforced by data showing that the number of female PMIs is 70 percent more than male PMIs [5].

Other negative impacts that are possible in some cases are divorce and neglect of education and not properly monitoring the growth and development of their children. Other data related to family resilience among migrant workers that must be watched out for is the increasing negative social impacts of PMI children such as dropping out of school, addiction to pornography and free sex and even criminal behavior. The sad fact is that seven out of 10 PMI children will experience all of this [6].

There are 3 (three) main dimensions when the direction of the policy for sending workers abroad is studied, namely the principle of Happy and Prosperous Small Family Norms (NKKBS); postponement of child birth (separation of husband and wife for a period of 2 to 4 years or more); and perceptions about the value of children (migrant workers working in developed countries have a better understanding of the internalization mechanisms regarding children) [7].

## 2. Research Methods

This research will be carried out in Pontang District - Serang Regency, Banten Province. Pontang District was chosen for the reason that it represents Banten Province with characteristics including being the largest PMI sending pocket on a national scale, being located outside the city, low population density and the predominance of livelihoods as farming or farming.

The Mix Method Research Method is used, namely an approach that not only requires explaining a phenomenon in depth but also aims to see trends related to that phenomenon [8]. In this approach,

various and varied images are created, in-depth examination of words, detailed reports of respondents and studies are carried out on natural situations and conditions [9] using survey method data collection techniques through questionnaires, participant observation, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and interview methods. In-depth-Interview (in-depth interview) is the process of obtaining in-depth information by means of questions and answers between the interviewer and the informant or person being interviewed, with or without using an interview guide. This method is combined with field observations using instruments at the target location of the PMI origin area in Pontang District, Serang Regency.

A quantitative approach is then used to see the pattern of a phenomenon so that it is hoped that it can reach a wider range of research respondents [10]. Quantitative Method: Descriptive techniques are used by collecting primary data which is intended to obtain data information from the first source, namely the families of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in Pontang District, totaling around 394 people (Pontang District, 2023) then samples are taken using the Slovin formula with a significance level of 10 percent, while secondary data is data that is already available at the relevant agency. Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in this case are Indonesian citizens, both men and women, who work abroad for a certain period of time based on the division of labor through the Indonesian Migrant Worker placement procedure [11].

## 3. Results and Discussions

In this section we will try to discuss physical resilience, economic resilience, socio-cultural resilience and social psychological resilience. Following are the results in detail:

### 3.1. Physical Resilience

Healthy physical condition for all family members is an important condition for achieving family resilience. With the physical abilities of family members reflected by their bodies being healthy and free from various diseases and weaknesses, the family will have a high level of family resilience.

Based on figure 3.1. Below, the physical resilience of PMI families in Pontang District is recorded as quite good. Ownership of permanent residence is an indicator that can be measured that they have a decent place to live, after migrating as PMI abroad. Furthermore, this physical resilience can be measured by the fact that almost 100 percent of family members are able to eat at least 2 times a day, have separate beds and regularly send monthly income to meet their needs for food, education and health. This is proven by almost 100 percent of the fact that no family member suffers from nutritional

problems or acute/chronic diseases/congenital defects.

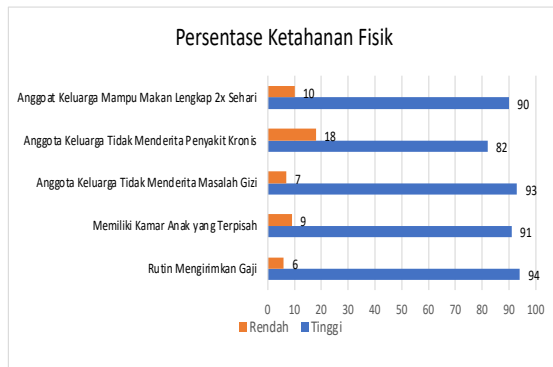


Figure 1. Percentage of Physical Resilience of Indonesian Migrant Worker Families (PMI) in Pontang District, Serang Regency, Banten Province

### 3.2. Economic Resilience

Economic resilience describes a family's ability to fulfill various family needs to live a comfortable and sustainable life. A comfortable family life will occur if the family owns and occupies a house or residence that is in decent condition. Meanwhile, the continuity of family life will be guaranteed when the family always has an income sufficient to meet all daily living needs, including ensuring the continuity of education of family members. Meanwhile, in order to anticipate various life uncertainties in the future, families should also have adequate savings and have health insurance in the form of health insurance and so on.

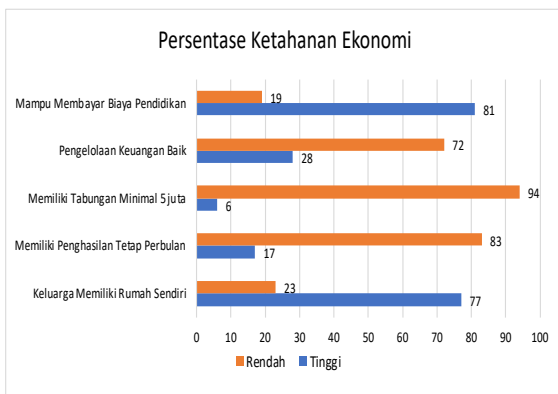


Figure 2. Percentage of Economic Resilience of Indonesian Migrant Worker Families (PMI) in Pontang District, Serang Regency, Banten Province

The economic security of PMI families in Pontang District is indicated to be good, as almost all of them have their own homes, they are also only able to pay education fees up to junior high school level and spend their needs openly. On the other hand, almost all of them (93 percent) stated that they did not have a fixed monthly income so they did not have savings even with a minimum amount of 5 million. Under these conditions, the family is also unable to manage monthly finances.

The data above shows that the resilience of PMI families in the economic aspect in Pontang District tends to be low, so it must be increased through utilizing local potential and empowering the family economy. Although it cannot be denied that after they became PMI there were several changes that were felt, namely being able to have their own house and being able to meet their educational, health and nutritional needs.

Economic resilience which was recorded as low was further strengthened by the results of interviews with PMI families who hoped to return to being PMI (50 percent). This may indicate that finding work in the country is very difficult or perhaps the wages they receive are not sufficient for their living needs.

Following statements by PMI families that the opportunity to work in the country is very difficult. Only a small number hope that their family conditions will be better by working in the country. Other data that confirms that family resilience in the economic aspect is low can be seen from the report from the Serang Regency Manpower and Transmigration Service (Disnakertrans) which released that there are four sub-districts, namely Pontang, Tanara, Tirtayasa, and Lebakwangi which are the largest contributors to PMI both on a district and national scale. Pontang District, as one of the largest PMI pockets in Banten Province, of course needs special attention to see the high flow of migrant workers and its impact on family resilience.

### 3.3. Sociocultural Resilience

Sociocultural resilience is one dimension that describes the level of family resilience seen from the perspective of family relationships with the surrounding social environment. The family is an inseparable part of the community and social environment.

The dimensions of socio-cultural resilience are described through 3 (three) variables and 3 (three) indicators, namely:

- 1) The Social Concern variable is measured based on the Respect for the Elderly indicator. Families who have concern and attention for elderly family members in the form of attention and care for the elderly will have quite high resilience. Social concern, which is measured by the indicator of respect for the elderly, is then represented and measured using the approach to the presence of the elderly in the household. The use of this measurement approach is based on the assumption that an elderly person who lives with family members in the household will receive adequate attention and care from other family members on a daily basis [12].
- 2) The Social Closeness variable is measured based on the indicator of Participation in

Social Activities in the Surrounding Environment. Family resilience can be reflected in the condition of a strong and successful family, namely that the family has formal and informal support from other members in its community in a balanced manner. Thus, a family is said to have quite high family resilience if family members always play a role and participate in all social activities held in the surrounding environment.

- 3) The Religious Observance variable is measured based on the indicator of Participation in Religious Activities in the Environment. Religious observance is one of the components of forming a quality family. Mental and spiritual conditions as well as the application of religious values are the basis for achieving a quality family which will then form a prosperous family. Religious devotion can be in the form of an individual's awareness of participating in religious activities in the environment around where he lives based on the individual's willingness to attend, be involved and play a direct role in religious activities in the environment around where he lives. Thus, a family is said to have quite high family resilience if family members always participate in religious activities.

In relation to socio-cultural factors, PMI families in Pontang District have quite good family resilience. This condition can be seen in Figure 3.3, that almost 100 percent of them communicate, carry out religious activities, play an active role in social activities and pay special attention to the elderly in their families.

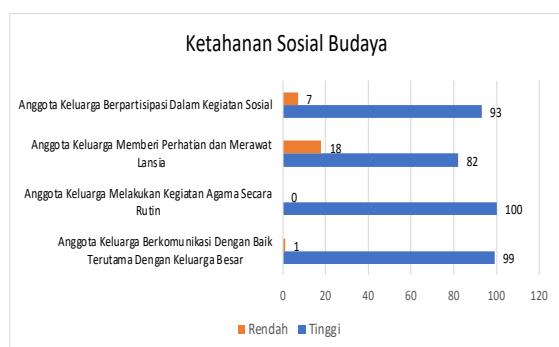


Figure 3. Percentage of Socio-Cultural Resilience of Indonesian Migrant Worker Families (PMI) in Pontang District, Serang Regency, Banten Province

### 3.4. Social Psychology Resilience

The Social Psychological Resilience Dimension is said to be of high value if the family is able to overcome various non-physical problems such as positive emotional control, positive self-concept (including hope and satisfaction), husband's concern for his wife and satisfaction with family harmony [13]. Therefore, families that have good social psychological resilience have the potential to

have strong family resilience as well. The social and psychological resilience of PMI families in Pontang District is shown in Figure 3.4, almost all indicators are recorded as low.

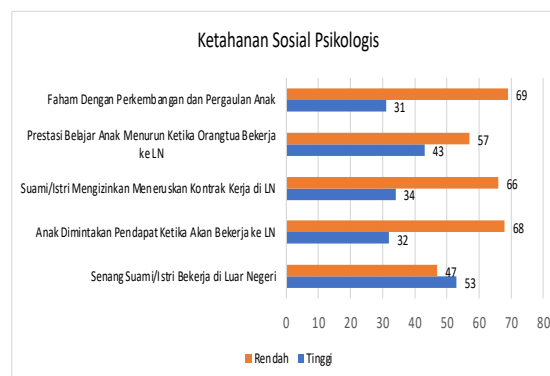


Figure 4. Percentage of Social Psychological Resilience of Families of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in Pontang District, Serang Regency, Banten Province

Indicators of family harmony can be measured by how mother, father and family live in harmony. Indicators of family understanding of children's development and relationships are indicated to be low, namely 69 percent. Most parents (69 percent) do not give their children the opportunity to express their opinions when their parents are going to become PMI/migrate. On the other hand, it turns out that not all husbands or wives allow their partners to work abroad to meet their needs, namely only 53 percent were recorded and the rest were not happy. There are 57 percent of children who experience academic problems with decreased learning achievement when their parents, especially their mothers, work abroad. This phenomenon shows that there is quite a high conflict between the desire to live in harmony and the demands of life [14]. The above shows that social psychological factors in PMI families in Pontang District are recorded as low.

### 4. Conclusion

Aspects recorded as having high resilience are Physical and Socio-Cultural, characterized by having adequate needs for food, education and health so that no family member suffers from nutritional problems or acute/chronic diseases/congenital defects. The socio-cultural aspect of high resilience is characterized by attention and care for the elderly, as well as families who play an active role in social and religious activities. Economic and Social Psychological Aspects were recorded as low resilience, indicated by the inability of the family left behind to manage the money they received (remittances), changes in family function in parenting patterns for children, reduced role of the husband as the family breadwinner and the lack of optimal empowerment of existing PMI families economically. as well as social.

There are several things that need to be improved regarding achieving sustainable development, especially in realizing people's welfare as a pillar of social development, and at the same time contributing to achieving development targets at the global level. Improving the economic aspect can be done through utilizing local potential and empowering the family economy, while the social psychological aspect can be achieved through optimizing the family's understanding of children's development and relationships as well as involving children in family decision making.

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the development of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in the 8th SDGs agenda, namely supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. One activity that can be carried out is to empower former PMI groups and families to build joint production businesses and form cooperatives. Apart from that, the Regional Government is also expected to play an active role in empowering former and families of PMI, including through empowerment programs in the form of business training and People's Business Credit (KUR).

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