

INTISARI

Penelitian dengan tema migrasi internasional: perilaku pekerja migran perkebunan sawit asal Lombok Timur di Malaysia merupakan upaya mengkaji perilaku pekerja migran orang Sasak asal Lombok Timur khususnya di Perkebunan Sawit dan respon pasangan (istri) di daerah asal.

Penelitian ini bertujuan mengkaji interaksi pekerja migran dan istri, perilaku pekerja migran di Malaysia serta respon istri di daerah asal terhadap perilaku suami di Malaysia. Observasi terlibat dan wawancara mendalam terhadap pekerja migran di Malaysia dan istri di daerah asal digunakan untuk mendalami fenomena terkait masalah penelitian yang dilakukan.

Berdasarkan serangkaian proses penelitian yang dilakukan paling tidak ditemukan tiga hal terkait perilaku pekerja migran perkebunan sawit asal LOTIM di Malaysia dan istri di daerah asal. Ketiga hal tersebut adalah, interaksi, perilaku pekerja migran di Malaysia dan respon pasangan (istri) di daerah asal. Interaksi adalah faktor penting yang harus tetap berlangsung karena merupakan salah satu indikasi kekuatan hubungan antara pekerja migran dan istri selama terpisah sementara waktu. Interaksi dibuktikan dengan intensitas mengirim kabar tinggi, sedang dan rendah setiap bulan, dengan alasan utama khawatir terhadap kondisi pasangan di daerah asal. Gangguan interaksi baik dari daerah tujuan maupun daerah asal, termasuk di dalamnya perubahan perilaku setelah menjadi pekerja migran berupa gaya hidup konsumtif dan melakukan pernikahan sesama pekerja di perkebunan berpengaruh terhadap kualitas hubungan. Bentuk respon istri terhadap perilaku suami di Malaysia ditunjukkan oleh sikap dan perilaku yang dikelompokkan menjadi dua yaitu, kelompok istri yang bersabar dan menunggu suami dengan setia hingga kembali ke daerah asal dan kelompok istri yang melampiaskan kekecewaan dengan melakukan perselingkuhan sebagai bentuk balas dendam atas perilaku suami. Aktivitas migrasi tidak hanyameningkatkan kualitas ekonomi tetapi dapat mengakibatkan gangguan terhadap keutuhan rumah tangga. Mempertahankan keutuhan rumah tangga dengan menjaga interaksi melalui komunikasi dan komitmen. Komunikasi yang intensif paling tidak dapat mencairkan suasana, sedangkan komitmen saling menjaga kepercayaan adalah kunci sukses keberlangsungan rumah tangga. Kebijakan pengiriman pekerja migran suami-istri yang ditempatkan pada satu lokasi dapat mengurangi dampak negatif, sedangkan mengatasi jenuh dan kesepian di kalangan istri dengan melakukan kegiatan positif.

Kebaharuan penelitian ini dalam bentuk skemayang menjelaskan aktivitas migrasi internasional terkait bentuk interaksi pekerja migran danistri, perilaku pekerja migran di Malaysia dan respon pasangan di daerah asal. Skema tersebut menjelaskan keterkaitan interaksi, perilaku pekerja migran dan respon istri di daerah asal yang dikelompokkan menjadi empat kategori: *pertama*, subjek penelitian intens mengirim kabar di respon positif oleh pasangan; *kedua*, subjek penelitian intens mengirim kabar di respon negatif oleh pasangan; *ketiga*, subjek penelitian tidak intens mengirim kabar di respon positif oleh pasangan; *keempat*, subjek penelitian tidak intens mengirim kabar di respon negatif oleh pasangan di daerah asal.

Kata Kunci: perilaku, pekerja migran, respon

ABSTRACT

This research under the theme of “*International Migration: A study on the behavior of oil palm plantation migrant workers from East Lombok in Malaysia*” is an effort to examine the behavior of migrant workers consisting of Sasak people, the natives of East Lombok, especially in the Oil Palm Plantation and the responses of their respective spouses (wife) in their area of origin.

This research aims to investigate the interaction between these migrant workers and wife, the behavior of these migrant workers in Malaysia as well as the responses of wife in the area of origin with regard to the behavior of their respective husbands working in Malaysia. Participant observation and in-depth interviews with those migrant workers in Malaysia and wife in the area of origin were conducted in order to understand the phenomena related to the research problems formulated.

Based on a series of the research processes undertaken, there are at least three factors relating to the behavior of the oil palm plantation migrant workers from East Lombok in Malaysia and the wife in the area of origin, namely: the interaction, the behavior of the migrant workers in Malaysia and the response of their respective spouses (wife) in the area of origin. Interaction is an important factor which has to keep going as it indicates the power of the relationship between the migrant workers and wife during the time they separate temporary. This interaction was proved by the high, moderate or low intensity of sending messages each month to discover the condition of their respective spouses in their area of origin. The obstruction to the interaction either from the destination area or the area of origin, including changes in the behavior after working as a migrant worker such as having consumptive lifestyles and marrying their fellow workers, affected the quality of their relationship. The responses of wife given to their respective husbands’ behavior in Malaysia were indicated by the attitudes and behavior which could be classified into two categories, namely: the group of wife who showed patience and waited for their husband faithfully to return to their area of origin and, the second one, the group of wife who showed their disappointment by having an affair to wreak revenge on their husband’s behavior. The migrating activity does not only improve the economic quality, but also results in obstruction to family harmony. The family harmony was maintained by maintaining interaction through communication and commitment. Regular communication can at least break the ice, while the commitment not to betray the trust given by their spouse is a key to family harmony. The policy to send married-couple migrant workers placed in the same location can reduce the negative effects. As for attempts to overcome the feelings of boredom and loneliness among the wife, a variety of positive activities can be done.

The novelty of this research lies in the scheme explaining the international migration activity in terms of the forms of interactions between the migrant workers and wife, the behavior of these migrant workers in Malaysia as well as the responses of wife in the area of origin. The scheme describes the relationship between the interaction, the behavior of those migrant workers and the responses of their respective spouse in the area of origin which were classified into four categories, namely: *the first*, the research subjects regularly contacted their spouse and a positive response was showed by their spouse; *the second*, the

research subjects regularly contacted their spouse and a negative response was showed by their spouse; *the third*, the research subjects did not regularly contact their spouse and a positive response was showed by their spouse; and *the four*, the research subjects did not regularly contact their spouse and a negative response was showed by their spouse in the area of origin.

Keywords: behavior, migrant workers, responses