



# **International Labor Migration and Its Socioeconomic Consequences for Rural Communities: A Case Study of Pakong District, Indonesia**

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## **Abstract**

This study aims to analyze the driving factors of international labor migration and its impact on the socio-economic conditions of migrant households in Pakong District, Pamekasan Regency. Socio-economic conditions in this study are operationalized through indicators of household income, ownership of productive and consumptive assets, continuity of children's education, and housing quality . The study used a qualitative approach with purposive and snowball sampling techniques , involving 15 informants of international migrant workers in the informal sector working in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia with a minimum work period of one year. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and participant observation, then analyzed thematically. The results of the study indicate that migration is driven by structural pressures in the area of origin (limited employment opportunities and low levels of education) as well as economic attractions in the destination country in the form of relatively higher wages and established migrant networks. The positive impacts of migration are reflected in increased household income, improved housing quality, financing children's education, and increased family economic independence . However, migration also has negative impacts in the form of weakened family relations and reduced parental supervision of children . This study makes an empirical contribution by showing that international migration in rural Madura not only functions as a household economic strategy, but also shapes social transformations based on remittances and migrant networks , which have not been widely discussed in previous migration studies.

**Keywords** : Labor Migration, Socioeconomics, and Rural Communities

### Abstrak

Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis faktor-faktor pendorong migrasi tenaga kerja internasional dan dampaknya terhadap kondisi sosial ekonomi rumah tangga migran di Kecamatan Pakong, Kabupaten Pamekasan. Kondisi sosial ekonomi dalam studi ini dioperasionalkan melalui indikator pendapatan rumah tangga, kepemilikan aset produktif dan konsumtif, keberlanjutan pendidikan anak, dan kualitas perumahan. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik pengambilan sampel purposif dan snowball, melibatkan 15 informan pekerja migran internasional di sektor informal yang bekerja di Malaysia dan Arab Saudi dengan masa kerja minimal satu tahun. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam dan observasi partisipan, kemudian dianalisis secara tematik. Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa migrasi didorong oleh tekanan struktural di daerah asal (kesempatan kerja yang terbatas dan tingkat pendidikan yang rendah) serta daya tarik ekonomi di negara tujuan berupa upah yang relatif lebih tinggi dan jaringan migran yang mapan. Dampak positif migrasi tercermin dalam peningkatan pendapatan rumah tangga, peningkatan kualitas perumahan, pembiayaan pendidikan anak, dan peningkatan kemandirian ekonomi keluarga. Namun, migrasi juga memiliki dampak negatif berupa melemahnya hubungan keluarga dan berkurangnya pengawasan orang tua terhadap anak. Studi ini memberikan kontribusi empiris dengan menunjukkan bahwa migrasi internasional di pedesaan Madura tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai strategi ekonomi rumah tangga, tetapi juga membentuk transformasi sosial berdasarkan pengiriman uang dan jaringan migran, yang belum banyak dibahas dalam studi migrasi sebelumnya.

**Kata kunci:** Migrasi Tenaga Kerja, Sosioekonomi, dan Komunitas Pedesaan

## INTRODUCTION

The dynamics of international labor migration are inextricably linked to the demographic structure and labor markets in the country of origin. In many developing countries, relatively high population growth is not always accompanied by adequate job creation, resulting in a labor surplus and increasing household economic pressures<sup>1</sup>. In this context, international migration is often chosen as an adaptive strategy to address limited job opportunities and low incomes in the region of origin<sup>2</sup>. Indonesia is one of the most populous developing countries in the world, facing structural challenges in the form of an imbalance between workforce growth and the absorption capacity of the domestic labor

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<sup>1</sup> Joko Susanto, Nor Fatimah, and Che Sulaiman, "International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning Economic Prospects and International Labor Migration" 17, no. 8 (2022): 2475–83.

<sup>2</sup> Ike Herdiana et al., "Driving Forces of International Labor Migration," *Journal of Biometrics and Population* 14, no. April 2024 (2025): 99–113.

market <sup>3</sup>. This condition encourages some workers, especially in rural areas, to seek alternative livelihoods abroad <sup>4</sup>. Limited formal employment opportunities, especially in rural areas, encourage some workers to seek alternative livelihoods through migration abroad <sup>5</sup>. International labor migration is then understood not only as a phenomenon of population mobility, but also as a household economic mechanism in responding to structural limitations of development <sup>6</sup>.

Theoretically, the phenomenon of labor migration can be explained through the push-pull theory *proposed* by Todaro and the <sup>7</sup>income expectation model . Push factors include poverty, unemployment, and limited education, while pull factors include wage differences and labor demand in the destination country <sup>8</sup>. Migration network theory asserts that the presence of previous migrants lowers the costs and risks of migration, thereby strengthening onward migration flows <sup>9</sup>.

However, labor migration not only generates positive economic impacts through remittances, but also carries complex social consequences <sup>10</sup>. De Haas's research confirms that migration is ambivalent, as it enhances economic well-being while potentially weakening family cohesion and social structures in the region of origin <sup>11</sup>.

Unlike Indonesian migration, international labor migration offers significant wage differentials between origin and destination countries, making it more attractive

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<sup>3</sup> Berliana Maharani Santoso et al., "Determinants of International Migration of Indonesian Migrant Workers" 16, no. 1 (2024): 29–38.

<sup>4</sup> Sitti Nurtina, "Female Labor Migration And Its Contribution To The Family Economy," *Jisiera: The Journal of Islamic Studies and International Relations* 4 (2019): 41–61, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6790270>.

<sup>5</sup> Wahyu Indah Puspitasari and Sri Kusreni, "Factors Influencing Overseas Labor Migration by Province in Indonesia," *Journal of Applied Economics* 2, no. 1 (2017): 1–16.

<sup>6</sup> Michael A Clemens, Claudio E Montenegro, and Lant Pritchett, "The Place Premium: Bounding the Price Equivalent of Migration Barriers," *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 101, no. 2 (May 1, 2019): 201–13, [https://doi.org/10.1162/rest\\_a\\_00776](https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00776).

<sup>7</sup> Everett S Lee, "A Theory of Migration" 3, no. 1 (2007): 47–57.

<sup>8</sup> Fangqu Niu, "A Push-Pull Model for Inter-City Migration Simulation," *Cities* 131 (2022): 104005, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2022.104005>.

<sup>9</sup> Muhammad Ghafur Wibowo et al., *Acceleration of Indonesian Economic Development* (Yogyakarta: Master of Islamic Economics, UIN Sunan Kalijaga, 2021), [https://digilib.uin-suka.ac.id/id/eprint/56248/1/Pengaruh\\_Fertilitas%2c\\_Mortalitas\\_Dan\\_Migrasi\\_Terhadap\\_Pertumbuhan\\_Penduduk\\_Di\\_Indonesia.pdf](https://digilib.uin-suka.ac.id/id/eprint/56248/1/Pengaruh_Fertilitas%2c_Mortalitas_Dan_Migrasi_Terhadap_Pertumbuhan_Penduduk_Di_Indonesia.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Haning Romdiati, "Globalization of Migration and the Role of Diaspora: A Literature Review," *Indonesian Journal of Population* 10, no. 2 (2015): 89, <https://doi.org/10.14203/jki.v10i2.69>.

<sup>11</sup> Haas and Hein De, *A Theory of Migration: The Aspirations- Capabilities Framework* (Comparative Migration Studies, 2021).

economically <sup>12</sup>. Several studies have shown that differences in wage levels, migrant networks, and labor demand in destination countries are key factors driving cross-border migration, particularly in the informal and low-wage sectors <sup>13</sup>. However, migration also carries complex social consequences, particularly for households and communities in origin.

This phenomenon is evident in the Madura region, particularly in Pakong District, Pamekasan Regency, which is known as one of the origins of international migrant workers. Limited local employment opportunities, low levels of formal education, and strong networks of previous migrants make migration abroad a rational choice for some <sup>14</sup>. Although migration is often associated with increased economic well-being, its socio-economic impacts at the household and local community levels still require more in-depth empirical study.

Most studies of labor migration in Indonesia focus on quantitative analysis at the national or provincial level, with an emphasis on remittances and macroeconomic contributions <sup>15</sup>. Meanwhile, research that qualitatively explores migrants' experiences and the socioeconomic impacts of migration at the micro-household level, particularly in Madura, remains relatively limited. This gap is crucial to address in understanding migration not only as an economic phenomenon but also as a social process that reshapes family relations, educational strategies, and household well-being <sup>16</sup>.

Although studies on Indonesian labor migration have advanced rapidly, most research still focuses on national or macro-level analyses, such as migration flows, remittances, and their contribution to the national economy. Research that deeply examines the socio-economic dynamics of migration at the micro-level, particularly in rural Madurese communities, remains relatively limited. In particular, Pakong District, Pamekasan

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<sup>12</sup> Haas and De.

<sup>13</sup> Lant Pritchett and Farah Hani, "The Economics of International Wage Differentials and Migration" (Oxford University Press, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.353>.

<sup>14</sup> Fariastuti Djafar, "Labor Market and Returning Migrants in the West Kalimantan-Sarawak Border District," *Indonesian Geography Magazine* 38 (September 25, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.22146/mgi.94560>.

<sup>15</sup> Santoso et al., "Determinants of International Migration of Indonesian Migrant Workers."

<sup>16</sup> McKenzie et al., "Distortions in the International Migrant Labor Market: Evidence from Filipino Migration and Wage Responses to Destination Country Economic Shocks.," *Journal: Applied Economics* 6, no. 2 (2014): 49–75, <https://www.acaweb.org/articles/pdf/doi/10.1257/app.6.2.49>.

Regency, as one of the migrant worker sending areas, has received little attention in the academic literature.

Therefore, the research gap *in* this study lies in the lack of research that qualitatively explores how international labor migration affects household socio-economic conditions at the rural Madurese community level. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the factors driving migration and its impact on the socio-economic lives of migrant workers and their families in Pakong District. Thus, this research is expected to provide a more contextual empirical contribution to the study of labor migration and development, both from a national and international perspective.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study is a field study using a qualitative approach, which aims to explore in depth the driving factors of labor migration and the socio-economic impacts experienced by migrant workers and their families in Pakong District, Pamekasan Regency<sup>17</sup>. A qualitative approach was chosen because it can explore meanings, subjective experiences, and social dynamics that cannot be adequately explained through quantitative approaches.<sup>18</sup> The use of literature in this study is positioned as a secondary data source, serving to strengthen the theoretical foundation, support the interpretation of field findings, and compare the research results with previous migration studies<sup>19</sup>. Literature is not used as the primary method of data collection, but rather as a complement to empirical analysis derived from primary data from interviews and field observations. This approach aligns with qualitative research practices in socio-economic studies of migration in Indonesia<sup>20</sup>.

### Data collection technique

Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews (*in-depth interviews*) and participant observation, while secondary data were obtained from official documents, statistical reports, and scientific publications related to labor migration. Interviews were

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<sup>17</sup> Lexy J Moleong, *Qualitative Research Methodology* (Rosda, 2021).

<sup>18</sup> Romdiati, "Globalization of Migration and the Role of Diaspora: A Literature Review."

<sup>19</sup> Anna Glorina and Sri Sentosa, "Causality Analysis Between Migration, Unemployment, and Poverty in Indonesia," *Journal of Economic and Development Studies* 1 (July 9, 2019): 375, <https://doi.org/10.24036/jkep.v1i2.6179>.

<sup>20</sup> Wahyu Puspitasari, "Factors Influencing Overseas Labor Migration Based on Provinces in Indonesia," *Journal of Applied Economics* 2 (June 30, 2017), <https://doi.org/10.20473/jiet.v2i1.5505>.

conducted in a semi-structured format , using open-ended questions to allow informants to express their experiences and views freely and reflectively <sup>21</sup>.

The core interview questions focused on three main aspects, namely:

1. The economic impacts of migration , including changes in income, asset ownership, and meeting family needs;
2. Social changes , such as family relationships, communication patterns, and social status in society; and
3. Motivations for migration , which include economic, educational, social network and cultural factors.

The entire interview process was conducted in person, systematically recorded, and partially recorded with the informant's consent. The interview data was then transcribed and verified through *member checking* with the informant to ensure the accuracy of the information and the appropriateness of the meaning conveyed <sup>22</sup>.

### **Sampling Techniques and Data Saturation**

The selection of informants was carried out using *purposive sampling* , based on the following criteria:

1. Have worked abroad,
2. Reside in the destination country for at least one year, and
3. Aged over 17 years.

Furthermore, *snowball sampling technique* was used to obtain additional informants through recommendations from initial informants, especially to reach migrant networks that were difficult to identify formally <sup>23</sup>. The number of informants in this study was 15 people , but the determination of this number was not based on numerical considerations, but on the principle of theoretical saturation . Data collection was stopped when additional interviews no longer produced new information, new themes, or significant variations in

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<sup>21</sup> Satish Chand, “Methods of Data Collection in Qualitative Research: Interviews, Focus Groups, Observations, and Document Analysis,” *Advances in Educational Research and Evaluation* 6 (August 4, 2025): 303–17, <https://doi.org/10.25082/AERE.2025.01.001>.

<sup>22</sup> Putri Wahidah Luthfiyani and Sri Murhayati, “Strategies for Ensuring Data Validity in Qualitative Research” 8 (2024): 45315–28.

<sup>23</sup> Indra Muda and Julianto Hutasukhut, “Public Economic Development Through Culinary Tourism at Kamu Market in Denai Lama Village, Labu Beach 1,” *JIMK: Journal of Management and Entrepreneurship Science* 4, no. 2 (2023): 303–11.

meaning related to migration factors and socio-economic impacts, so that the data was considered conceptually saturated <sup>24</sup>.

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

The data were analyzed using thematic analysis , with stages of data reduction, coding, categorizing, and drawing out main themes. The analysis focused on the categorization of migration factors ( *push, pull, and network* ) and the socio-economic impacts of migration , which were then interpreted analytically with reference to theories of labor migration and population mobility <sup>25</sup>. This approach allows for integration between empirical field findings and theoretical frameworks of migration relevant to the Indonesian context <sup>26</sup>.

### **Validity, Reliability, and Ethical Considerations**

To maintain data validity , this study employed triangulation of methods and sources , comparing interview results, participant observations, and supporting documents. Researcher reflexivity was also employed to minimize subjective bias in the data collection and analysis process <sup>27</sup>.

This research upholds the principles of voluntary participation , informed consent , and confidentiality of informants' identities . Informants were given an explanation of the research objectives, the right to refuse or discontinue participation, and a guarantee that the data obtained would be used solely for academic purposes. Implementing these ethical principles is essential to ensure scientific integrity and the protection of research subjects, as recommended in social research in Indonesia. <sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> Monanisa, Bambang Bmeby Soebyakto, and Lili Erina, "Analysis of Reasons for Incoming Migration in Muaradua City, South Oku Regency After Regional Expansion," *Journal of Population* 1, no. 1 (2011).

<sup>25</sup> Ahmad Muhamad Mustain Nasoha et al., "Citizenship in Social Review : Social Integration of Foreign Citizens in Indonesia Foreign Countries in Indonesia. Changes to Regulations Concerning Immigration and Citizenship," *TERANG: Journal of Social, Political and Legal Studies* 1, no. 4 (2024): 83–97, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.62383/terang.v1i3.607>.

<sup>26</sup> Glorina and Sentosa, "Causality Analysis Between Migration, Unemployment, and Poverty in Indonesia."

<sup>27</sup> Jessica L Johnson, Donna Adkins, and Sheila Chauvin, "A Review of the Quality Indicators of Rigor in Qualitative Research.," *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* 84, no. 1 (January 2020): 7120, <https://doi.org/10.5688/ajpe7120>.

<sup>28</sup> Sartika Sari Efriyanti and Meynar Albina, "Ethics in Educational Research : Study of Principles, Challenges, and Solutions for its Implementation," *Jurnal Medika Akademik (JMA)* 3, no. 6 (2025): 1–13, <https://doi.org/10.62281>.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Driving Factors of Migration: Economic Pressure and Educational Limitations

This study involved 15 key informants, international migrant workers from Pakong District, Pamekasan Regency. All informants met the research criteria, having worked abroad for at least one year and coming from rural households <sup>29</sup>. Migration destination countries included Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, with the dominant employment sector being the informal sector, such as domestic workers, plantation workers, construction workers, and service workers.

Most informants had elementary and junior high school educations, which limited their access to formal employment in their hometowns. This situation was exacerbated by the limited availability of local employment, which was seasonal and low-wage. Field observations indicated that migration has become a common social practice in Pakong District, where leaving to work abroad is seen as a normal and socially acceptable household economic strategy.

Interview results indicate that economic pressure is a major driving factor in migration decisions. All informants stated that income from agriculture, day labor, or informal work in the village was insufficient to cover household needs, especially long-term needs such as children's education and home repairs.

Labor migration from Pakong District is a rational response to structural pressures in their areas of origin, particularly low incomes and limited formal employment opportunities <sup>30</sup>. This finding supports the push *factor* theory, which states that unfavorable economic conditions, such as low wages and unstable employment, encourage individuals to seek opportunities elsewhere <sup>31</sup>. In this context, migration is not simply understood as geographic mobility, but rather as a household strategy for maintaining survival <sup>32</sup>. This

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<sup>29</sup> Taosige Wau et al., *International Economics: A Theoretical and Empirical Study* (Yogyakarta: Master of Islamic Economics, UIN Sunan Kalijaga, 2021), file:///C:/Users/Asuz/Downloads/Ekonomi Internasional Suatu Kajian Teori Dan Empiris.pdf.

<sup>30</sup> Tingshu Zhu and Morakot Meyer, "Comparative Migration Studies Article in Press The Temporal Architecture of Labor Migration: Identity, (II) Legality, and the Local Governance of Myanmar Border Pass Holders IN AR IN," *Comparative Migration Studies*, no. II (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-025-00513-4>.

<sup>31</sup> Lee, "A Theory of Migration."

<sup>32</sup> Muhammad Fitri Rahmadana, *Theories on Territory and Migration*, ed. Badrus Sholeh (Banyumas, Central Java: CV. Pena Persada, 2020), <https://digilib.unimed.ac.id/id/eprint/51946/1/Book.pdf>.



finding aligns with research by Puspita Kusreni, which shows that domestic labor market inequality is a dominant factor in labor migration. Indonesian work abroad <sup>33</sup>.

In addition to income, limited formal employment opportunities and low levels of education reinforce the decision to migrate. Informants believe that their diplomas do not provide better job opportunities in their home regions. This situation creates a sense of economic stagnation, leading to migration being perceived as the only way to improve family well-being.

Beyond economic factors, limited educational attainment emerges as a significant driver <sup>34</sup>. Limited access to formal employment due to a lack of diplomas limits local employment opportunities, so migration is perceived as a rational survival strategy <sup>35</sup>. From the perspective of Todaro's model, migration decisions are not solely driven by absolute poverty, but by the expectation of higher incomes in the destination area, despite the social and economic risks <sup>36</sup>.

This finding confirms the results of Arif Maulana's study which shows that low education and limited domestic job opportunities consistently encourage the migration of Indonesian workers abroad <sup>37</sup>.

### **Pull Factors for Migration: Higher Wages and Job Opportunities**

The primary pull factor for migration is the significant wage differential between the originating and destination countries. Informants stated that earnings abroad can be several times higher than local earnings, even though the work is considered demanding and risky. The primary pull factor identified in this study is the significant wage differential between originating and destination countries <sup>38</sup>. Respondents perceived overseas employment as

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<sup>33</sup> Puspitasari and Kusreni, "Factors Influencing Overseas Labor Migration Based on Provinces in Indonesia."

<sup>34</sup> Tri Budiono and Nugroho Bintoro, "The Effects Of Migration On Income, Health, And Education : A Data Analysis of Indonesia National Social Economic Survey 2018, " *Journal of Indonesian Applied Economics* 10, no. 2 (2022): 1–35, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21776/ub.jiae.2022.010.02.1>.

<sup>35</sup> Made Dwi et al., "Analysis of Educational Migration Decision in Indonesia," 2022, 226–35.

<sup>36</sup> Michael Todaro P and Stephen C. Smith, *Economic Development* (Washington: Pearson, 2022).

<sup>37</sup> Arif Maulana, "Association Between Migration, Education, and Re-Employment During the Covid-19 Pandemic in South Kalimantan Province," *Journal of Development Policy* 20 (June 5, 2025): 53–64, <https://doi.org/10.47441/jkp.v20i1.398>.

<sup>38</sup> Agus Junaidi, "Analysis of Push and Pull Factors Influencing Migration Decisions," *JJEM: Mulawarman Journal of Economics* 7, no. 4 (2022), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.29264/jiem.v7i4.10543>.

more economically promising, despite its often informal nature and risky nature<sup>39</sup>. This perception reinforces the primary assumption of pull factors theory, namely that destination regions offer economic opportunities not available in the originating regions<sup>40</sup>.

In addition to wages, easy access to jobs without higher education requirements is a strong attraction, especially for low-educated workers<sup>41</sup>. For informants, work in the informal sector abroad is considered more realistic than finding formal employment in Indonesia which requires certain diplomas and skills. This shows that the international labor market for migrant workers functions as an economic safety valve for rural areas with structural limitations<sup>42</sup>, as emphasized in Romdiati's research. Thus, migration in the context of Pakong District cannot be understood as merely an individual choice, but rather as a rational response to regional development inequality<sup>43</sup>.

### **The Role of Social Networks in Migration Decisions**

The results of the study indicate that migrants' social networks play a central role in facilitating migration. All informants obtained information about departure procedures, types of work, and working conditions from relatives, neighbors, or friends who had previously worked abroad. Social and family networks play a crucial role in facilitating migration. Information about job opportunities, departure procedures, and living conditions in the destination country was obtained through relatives or communities who had previously migrated<sup>44</sup>. This supports *migration network* theory, which states that the presence of previous migrants reduces the costs and risks of migration for prospective migrants<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>39</sup> Hotlin Hutasoit, "Exploitation of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Online Gambling Operations in Cambodia": Case Study of a Group of Migrant Workers" 2, no. 3 (2025): 57 – 63.

<sup>40</sup> Mariusz Urbanski, "Comparing Push and Pull Factors Affecting Migration," *Economies* 10, no. 21 (2022): 1–15, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/economy10010021>.

<sup>41</sup> Djafar, "Labor Market and Returning Migrants in the West Kalimantan-Sarawak Border District."

<sup>42</sup> Susanne Bygnes and Marta Bivand Erdal, "Liquid Migration, Grounded Lives: Considerations about Future Mobility and Settlement among Polish and Spanish Migrants in Norway," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 43, no. 1 (2017): 102–18, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2016.1211004>.

<sup>43</sup> Romdiati, "Globalization of Migration and the Role of Diaspora: A Literature Review."

<sup>44</sup> Rani Andriani et al., "Agribusiness Forum : Journal of Scientific Community Thought with Agribusiness Insights Social Network of Women Migrant Workers in Rural Areas" 10, no. 1 (2024): 1543–49.

<sup>45</sup> Erma Novriawati and Rus Nasrudin, "Does Migration Network Matter in Driving Internal Migration in Indonesia?" 24, no. October (2023), <https://doi.org/10.18196/jesp.v24i2.19280>.

This finding is consistent with Basaruid's research, which emphasizes that social networks serve not only as information channels but also as social legitimation mechanisms in migration decisions, particularly in rural communities <sup>46</sup>. The existence of these social networks significantly reduces migration risk and uncertainty, thus encouraging the sustainability of migration flows from Pakong District. The migration phenomenon is clearly visible in Pakong District, where migration has become a recurring and institutionalized social practice. This finding extends the study by showing that social networks serve not only as economic information channels but also as social legitimation mechanisms for migration decisions in rural communities <sup>47</sup>.

### **The Impact of Migration on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrant Households**

The research results show that migration has a significant positive economic impact on migrant households. Regularly sent remittances are used to meet basic needs, such as daily consumption, healthcare costs, and debt repayment. Empirically, migration has a significant positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of migrant households <sup>48</sup>. Increased income allows for the fulfillment of basic needs, improvements in housing quality, and financing of children's education <sup>49</sup>. Remittances serve as an instrument of vertical social mobility, improving the economic status of migrant families in their home communities <sup>50</sup>. Furthermore, most informants reported an increase in asset ownership, both productive assets (land, livestock, small businesses) and consumptive assets (permanent housing, motor vehicles). Field observations revealed physical changes in migrant housing, which were more suitable than before migration.

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<sup>46</sup> Franck Dago and Simon Barussaud, "Push/Pull Factors, Networks and Student Migration from Côte d'Ivoire to France and Switzerland" 9, no. 1 (2021): 308–16, <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v9i1.3698>.

<sup>47</sup> Md Mohsin Reza and M. Rezaul Islam, "Silent Struggles for Well-Being: Unraveling the Hidden Plight of Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in Malaysia," *Southeast Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, no. December (2025), <https://doi.org/10.1108/SEAMJ-09-2024-0068>.

<sup>48</sup> Hapsari Julaiha, "The Effect Of Remittances On The Economic Welfare Of Indonesian Migrant Workers' Families In Central Lombok Regency" 13, no. 2 (2025): 1–11.

<sup>49</sup> Rina Rohmatin et al., "Analysis of the Role of Labor Migration in Increasing Household Income": Nusantara Research Journal," *Nusantara Research Journal* 1, no. 12 (2025): 505–9, <https://doi.org/10.59435/menulis.v1i12.808>.

<sup>50</sup> Wahyuni and Sihaloho Martua, "The Relation of Economic Remittances and the Life's Level of Indonesian Migrants (Case: Galak Village, Ponorogo Regency, East Java)" 06, no. 02 (2022): 202–18, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.29244/jskpm.v6i2.703>.

However, the study also noted negative social consequences, particularly weakened family interactions and reduced parental supervision of children<sup>51</sup>. These findings underscore the ambivalence of migration, as Haas De argued, that migration can be both a source of economic well-being and a social challenge<sup>52</sup>.

In terms of impact, migration has a positive contribution to improving the socio-economic conditions of migrant households, especially through remittances used to meet basic needs, children's education, and housing improvements<sup>53</sup>. However, this study also notes social consequences in the form of weakened family interactions and reduced parental supervision of children. This finding confirms the ambivalent nature of migration, as Sulistyono argues that migration can improve economic well-being while simultaneously giving rise to social vulnerability<sup>54</sup>. The novelty of this study lies in the integration of economic factors, education, and social networks within a single analytical framework that explains migration as a collective household strategy in rural Madura, which is still relatively limited in the Indonesian migration literature.

### CONCLUSION

International labor migration from Pakong District is a form of household economic strategy that arises due to limited local job opportunities, low education levels, and economic pressures experienced by rural communities. The primary push factors are limited employment opportunities and low incomes, while pull factors are dominated by offers of higher wages and more open job opportunities in destination countries such as Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, migrants' social networks play a significant role in facilitating the departure process through information dissemination, financial support, and mitigating migration risks.

Migration has a significant positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of migrant families. Remittances are a key instrument for improving welfare by meeting basic

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<sup>51</sup> Marta Bivand Erdal et al., "On the Formation of Content for 'Political Remittances': An Analysis of Polish and Romanian Migrants Comparative Evaluations of 'here' and 'There,'" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 48, no. 19 (2022): 4485–4502, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2077707>.

<sup>52</sup> Haas & De (2021)

<sup>53</sup> Nita Sokhifatul Awalia, "Factors Influencing Indonesian Migrant Workers' Income Remittances to Families in Kendal Regency," *Economics Development Analysis Journal* 3, no. 1 (2014): 100–111, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/edaj.v3i1.3518>.

<sup>54</sup> Sulistyono & Wahyuni (2012)

needs, improving housing conditions, increasing productive and consumptive assets, and increasing access to education for children. These conditions contribute to vertical social mobility and change the social position of migrant households in their home communities.

However, this study also found social consequences that require attention. Long-term family separation has the potential to weaken the emotional bond between parents and children, reduce family supervision, and increase the risk of social dysfunction. These impacts demonstrate that migration brings not only economic benefits but also social challenges that require adaptive strategies from both families and communities.

Overall, international labor migration in rural Madura is not merely a labor movement phenomenon, but also a socio-economic practice that shapes the transformation of community life. These findings emphasize that integrating economic factors, education, and social networks is key to understanding migration dynamics and its implications for family well-being. Therefore, policies are needed that can optimize the benefits of remittances while minimizing social impacts, particularly through strengthening migrant protection, empowering migrant families, and fostering village communities.

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