

COMPLETION REPORT

From Entrepreneurship to Political activities: Self-Transformation and Theorizing Reintegration Process of Indonesian Return Migrant from Japan

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Indonesian return-migrants from Japan who shift their careers from migrant work to entrepreneurship are influenced by four conditions: [1] the shared experience that links return-migrants to their homelands; [2] knowledge accumulation; [3] consciousness/self-awareness; and [4] the social media. Migration abroad enables them to engage in entrepreneurship knowledge exchange that supports their business orientations at home. Knowledge accumulation can be interpreted as the formation of management and business expertise that include financial planning that support the development of entrepreneurial activities; this condition supported by self-consciousness after migration for better future. Consciousness refers to the memory of the home, and such awareness is reflected when return-migrants pay attention to events that take place in their vicinity, especially those that centre on improved living in the future. Return-migrants also using the social media proficiency (such as Facebook, blog site, LINE, and Whatsaap group) as a channel or avenue from which to obtain information or improve their networking.

Successful migration can enhance self-status and transform one from migrant worker to entrepreneur and local activist. The benefits gained from migration and success in business at home village can be used to access resources, enhance social standing, and facilitate symbolic resistance to unfair practices, thus improving the conditions of migrant workers and their families. Entrepreneurship at home is one of the important sources of return-migrant access to network and knowledge—a way of sharing success, motivating, mentoring, initiating financial support activities, helping with other return-migrants' difficulties—all of these functions elevate return-migrants entrepreneur to the status of folks best friend' within the community.

The synergy of return-migrants entrepreneurship and activism in village community can provide an example that would be very useful for stakeholders (e.g., NGO activists, academia, and government) who wish to encourage programmes related to migrant worker pre-departure and reintegration information. The social aspect from this synergy is important for enhancing the well-being in the future of Indonesian migrant workers in a host-home country. The role of Indonesian return-migrant in 'positive' social and economic activities can be applied in other return-migrant home village, whereas migrant workers in many countries will return home.

This study summarizes that the return migration, entrepreneurship, and social activities of Indonesian return-migrants from Japan in their home villages by using three patterns – the three Rs, return, remittance, and rebirth. In this case, return-migrants are the actors because they provide the remittances of working abroad. Besides sending money, they remit new patterns of values, behaviors, and practices from their overseas experiences. They have the competency and capacity to perceive how international labor migration may affect other people, viewing it from a wider context other than merely its contribution to the local economy. Within this international migration sequential process, small enterprises have emerged as critical sources of livelihood for return-migrants in home villages, compared to other job opportunities. Hence, a returnee can literally experience rebirth. By taking into account the situation before departure, overseas experiences, return, and post-return conditions, the three Rs of migration are shown as a dynamic social process comprising the individual development of migrants, their significant role in bringing about social and economic changes, and their successful reintegration into society.

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