

The Socio-Entrepreneurship Potential of Migrant Workers during the Covid-19 Era: A Mapping Study in Suralaga, East Lombok

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ABSTRACT The article aims to map the socio-entrepreneurship potential of migrant workers in the Covid-19 era. This mapping is vital to identify the potential that migrant workers have since they seek diversification during the pandemic years. In particular, this paper attempts to investigate the potential of this community as a socio-entrepreneurship resource for migrant workers as it has been seen essential an alternative approach to mitigating the effects of Covid-19. This study focuses on the Suralaga district, an area in East Lombok, which is known for a high number of migrant workers. This study is based on a qualitative approach and phenomenological methodology to gather and analyze data for six months (January–June 2022). There are 25 informants total in this study, 15 of whom are men and 10 of them are women. We used a variety of techniques to gather the data, including participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus groups, and documentation. The results of the study demonstrate that because of their low educational attainment—the majority of migrant employees having only completed elementary or junior high school—migrant workers have limited knowledge and skill, therefore it is difficult to find a job when they finished the contract and back home. In terms of natural potential, the Suralaga region's terrain is part of a farming area, where the majority of people work as farmers and grow tomatoes and chilies. The finding of this research also demonstrates the critical role that micro, small, and medium-sized businesses play in fostering the economic growth of migrant workers and serving as a counterweight to Covid-19's hegemonic middle class.

KEYWORDS Covid-19; Migrant workers; Potential mapping; Suralaga; Socio-entrepreneurship.

INTRODUCTION

Most countries in the globe experience migration, a global phenomenon that individuals engage in pursuit of employment opportunities and a higher standard of living (Diyanti, 2011; Hamdi, 2021). Indonesia is one of the Southeast Asian countries that send the most migrant workers abroad. These migrant workers largely come from the lower middle class and rural areas; Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong are among their eventual destinations. Economic

considerations, are the main factors that led them to choose to work as migrant workers. The women migrant workers usually fill domestic jobs such as babysitters, cleaning services, and others. Data from the Central Statistics Agency show that the majority of migrant workers from Indonesia are employed in Asian and African regions. There were 65,267 Indonesian migrant workers in the area overall, consisting of 61,730 men and 3,537 women (BPS, 2021).

Because there are limited employment opportunities in Indonesia, many locals have

chosen to leave the nation in search of jobs in an effort to improve the financial situation of their families. They left their family behind and moved abroad in search of a better quality of life. In their research findings, Agustika dan Rustariyuni (2017:40) indicates that working abroad will generate more money because the pay is better than the place of origin and it can satisfy the needs of the family. The decision of migrants to work abroad not only benefits their family's financial situation, but also gives them experience as skilled professionals. The migrant mission may provide remittances to the hamlet as a source of household and family income (Rammohan and Magnani, 2012). As a result, the existence of migrant workers has a considerable impact on the family and state revenue. Money transfers from abroad and within the country are made simpler through remittances.

Since Covid-19 emerged, the world economy, particularly Indonesia, has suffered. Numerous businesses were shut down, which had an impact on employees, notably migrant workers who lost their jobs. Around 13.541 migrant workers from ten regencies and two cities returned to Nusa Tenggara Barat province in 2021. Of these, 5.800 come from East Lombok, while 1.597 come from West Lombok, 4.520 come from Central Lombok, 299 come from North Lombok, 237 come from Mataram City, 596 come from Sumbawa Besar, 190 come from West Sumbawa, 181 come from Bima Regency (Imansyah, 2021). After returning home, migrant workers add to the unemployment rate because the majority of them have not found a

new job. At the same time, around 70% of migrant workers lack the necessary educational credentials, having only completed elementary and junior high school. As a result, finding employment is challenging in their home country (Haslan & Fauzan, 2021:53; Mahbubah & Kurniawan, 2022).

Given the aforementioned issues with migrant workers' job opportunities, the government must take action to empower migrant workers in order to develop their ability and capacity, offer access to changes, and enable them to participate in decisions that will determine their fate and destiny (Sumodiningrat, 1997). The empowerment of migrant workers should be compatible with social, cultural, and local resources that encourage entrepreneurship development. According to Muhammad Asad Sadi dan Basheer M. Al-Ghazali (2010), migrant workers' entrepreneurship has a specific function as a driver, controller, and improver of the national economy from a macro perspective. While in the micro setting, migrant worker entrepreneurs combine economic resources in a novel method that is distinct from how they were previously used, creating new value, businesses, and opportunities. Therefore, migrant workers play a significant role in socio-entrepreneurship as the main driver of development and reinforcement of the economic foundation of social value.

Social entrepreneurship is a new social phenomenon that is currently developing and improving people's quality of life worldwide (Chandra, 2017; Gonzalez

et al, 2017). In social entrepreneurship, benefits are given top priority, but social missions are also carried out in an effort to address societal challenges (Munoz et al., 2018). An established initiative to address social issues and promote ongoing growth is social entrepreneurship (Bozhikin et al., 2019: 740).

In order to provide information about the potential of natural resources in the area during pandemic Covid-19 outbreaks, this research discusses the potential map of migrant workers in the Suralaga district, East Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara province for social entrepreneurship development in accordance with those resources. By providing this information in map form, it makes it easier for the management of human resources to decide how to use the land. However, his article is not only providing a map of potential natural resources but also human resources belonging to migrant workers regarding social entrepreneurship. In overall, the Covid-19 situation that is affecting migrant workers in Indonesia is a worldwide phenomenon, but the Suralaga region is not the only one that has been negatively impacted. I selected Suralaga for this reason. Additionally, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the East Lombok regional government's strategy of social entrepreneurship, particularly in the villages in the Suralaga sub-district, was highly successful in preserving the lives of migrant workers.

Based on an analysis of prior literature, the findings of those studies differ with mine. According to Wahyono et al. (2019), social media and digital technology are major factors in boosting entrepreneurship in the

villages where migrant workers originate from. The absence of infrastructure, the flow of cash, and the strategy of social marketing provide the biggest obstacles to the growth of social entrepreneurship in this digital era (Suparmoko, 1999).

According to Latifah & Jati (2016), a favorable social and cultural character, balanced natural and human resources, and investment support, will be the main factors. Yuniriyanti (2020) demonstrates a Druju community attempt to empower female migrant workers that was pertinent to local knowledge native to that village. Hasanah (2018) explains how to run a social enterprise in a competitive manner. In contrast to these research findings, mine is fresh and fills a gap in the understanding of migrant workers' responses and motivations for developing social entrepreneurship while leveraging local resources during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This article fills in the gaps left by previous scholars, such as Sadi & Ghazali (2010), which focuses more on the concept of social entrepreneurship, Wahyono et al. (2019), Latifah & Jati (2016), Eni Yuniriyanti et al. (2020), and Hasanah (2018), who emphasize the role of social media, digital technology, and a balance between cultural and social characters in fostering migrant worker entrepreneurship. The level of social practices on entrepreneurship employed by groups of migrant workers in the field is examined in this article, specifically in Suralaga village, East Lombok, one of the communities referred to as migrant worker villages. In this village, migrant workers are crucial to economic growth, but since the Covid-19 case came to light, they have

faced challenges. According to this research, social entrepreneurship is one of the other businesses created by the village's leadership to aid migrant workers who were negatively impacted by the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 outbreak in rising and regaining their financial stability. The potential of the natural resources and human resources that migrant workers hold makes it possible to develop social capital to survive the Covid-19 pandemic. The novelty and originality of this article, which has not been covered by other scholars, lies in this.

This study looks at the possibility of migrant workers' human resources and the local resources in their area to develop as socio-entrepreneurship during the Covid-19 pandemic period. Qualitative methods, such as documentation, observation-participation, in-depth interviews, and focus groups discussion, were used to collect the data for this study. With a total of 25 informants, 15 women and 10 men, purposeful sampling was also used in this study. The Suralaga subdistrict, specifically Suralaga village, Paok Lombok, and Dasan Borok, served as the primary study sites. The units of analysis in this study consist of families, local communities, village governments, brokers, Indonesian Labor Service Companies, village heads, village government personnel, and migrant workers.

DISCUSSION

One of the groups at risk from COVID-19 is migrant workers. They are not only subject to fire from their employer (PHK), but are also targeted for deportation by the government because of concerns that they may be a conduit for the Covid-19 pandemic

due to their frequent contact with other employees. The flood of migrant worker layoffs and deportations undoubtedly causes additional issues in their villages when they return because they do not have a solid wage because of Covid-19. The village government's social entrepreneurship initiative is quite successful at assisting migrant workers in starting new firms that focus on both financial success and the importance of community support among locals. The village administration supports the development of social entrepreneurship as an idea and a practice during the Covid-19 period by empowering small and medium-sized businesses. Through social entrepreneurship initiatives, migrant workers were able to recover from the economic depression brought on by COVID-19. The following sub chapters will go into more detail about the program and map out the potential of the natural and human resources that migrant workers own.

Covid-19 and the Influence of Migrant Workers' enterprise

The Covid-19 pandemic's onset has seriously harmed the socio-economic stability of local and global communities. The Covid-19 has a substantial impact on labor issues, especially for migrant workers who are more vulnerable as a result of government regulations. The Covid-19 outbreak has caused a decline in the local economy. The implementation of this lockdown prevented migrant workers from having the opportunity to earn living income, and the lockdown policy in the country of migrant workers' origin increased the poverty of the families that stayed behind because they

were unable to receive full remittances. In these conditions, it goes without saying that people will struggle to fulfill their fundamental needs, especially considering the fact that the majority of migrant workers are from the lower middle class. The bulk of remittances are used to satisfy consumer demands, such as those pertaining to basics of life, at the same time.

The effects of Covid-19 on the town have resulted in social and economic difficulties, which are especially evident in the functioning of small businesses. As a result of the public's declining confidence and their hesitation to participate in activities outside the home, it is frequently difficult to obtain resources (Ihza, 2020). Due to the pandemic of Covid--19, there has been a fall in sales turnover, which has caused anxiety and the formation of new consumer habits in Indonesian culture. This new habit is a result of government regulations that restrict social interactions in an effort to curtail the spread of the Covid-19. Consumers' behavior shifts as a result of their innate propensity to adapt to changing conditions. Before turning back to old habits, consumers must first acclimate to new behaviors. Consumers today, of course, haven't felt secure since the Covid-19 epidemic, so they're used to using digital platforms to do activities whenever and wherever they want while avoiding physical contact and following safety procedures.

The majority of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) had a decline in sales; however, some MSMEs experienced a continuous rise in sales as a result of their capacity to adapt to technological developments associated with product innovation. In light of the fact

that survivors are environmentally friendly companies, there many thing that MSMEs must decide whether to develop new product lines or improve their marketing tactics, one of which is digital marketing. Different social media and internet elements can help business actors find marketing more easily.

The migrant workers' businesses are doing well in the hamlet of Paok Lombok Lekok, according to the researchers' observations. Every day, they see their usual clients. They believe that the Covid-19 outbreak has not adversely affected their traders' sales. At the same time there are MSMEs in the Dasan Borok area that employ people who were previously migrant workers. Ibu Lili, the chairman of an MSMEs, claims that these organizations support the administration of local agricultural products and give local resources precedence.

Mapping The Potential of Area as Capital in Socio-Entrepreneurship Development

Suralaga district covers an area of 27.02 km² and has 15 villages (Zakaria, 2019). Geographically, the Suralaga region has the capacity for farming and livestock raising. The majority of the population is employed as farmers, so this is a chance to start an agricultural company. Chili, tobacco, rice, tomatoes, and pumpkins are the region's top agricultural exports. In general, Lombok, which includes Suralaga, is a supplier of tobacco and chili to many parts of Indonesian region, even outside the country.

The Suralaga region has promise for both farming and raising livestock. Even though the area is not exceptionally large, the villagers are rather happy to grow animals. The practice of keeping cattle was

passed down by their ancestors. Usually, their livestock is kept inside or close to the house. Following the government initiative to assist farmers with their animals, people began designing special cages. This potency has been developed by local people.

Another potential also found in the Suralaga District is the growth of local economies through plantations. The coconut palm, which thrives in the area and is exchanged by the locals, is one of the most significant goods in the Suralaga District.

Mapping Migrant Workers' Human Resources for Developing Socio-Entrepreneurship

Socio-entrepreneurship is one approach to tackling social challenges using economic strategies. Firdaus (2014: 63) González et al., (2017: 215). defines social entrepreneurship as a type of economic activity that uses a variety of opportunities to be able to provide value. While social entrepreneurship prioritizes social value, it places a heavy emphasis on economic value as well, especially when it comes to developing creative solutions to societal problems. Social entrepreneurship is the concept of exploiting resources that haven't been used effectively and are meant for individuals who are perceived as being helpless and weak. Traditional corporations and society groups are both used by these social businesses. It can generate revenue from the sale of goods and services, as well as deal humanely with societal challenges.

Migrant workers should participate in socio-entrepreneurship initiatives during the current epidemic. For rural migrant workers who are vulnerable to the financial consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially the lower middle class, a socio-

entrepreneurship model is needed. Nearly all migrant workers are taking part in these activities in an effort to maintain the economic conditions of the community in general and the community of migrant workers in particular (Sofia, 2017).

The assessment of data from former migrant workers revealed the social characteristics of age and education. The remaining migrant laborers range in age from 19 to 45, with the majority of them being over 40. The majority of migrant workers have completed elementary and junior high school, and a smaller percentage have finished their college or graduate degrees, according to their level of education. Since a shortage of educational resources encourages some people to migrate, this shows that education is frequently a problem. Because migrant workers rely more on their physical characteristics, knowledge is generally seen as being unimportant. With physical resources, migratory workers are prepared for compete in the local labor market.

Based on their social characteristics, former migrant workers in the Suralaga sub-district can be described as having a respectable social position. They have a good education but are too old to be of any service when they go back home. The potential of the group of migrant workers as human resources in the Suralaga region is thus discussed in a variety of ways. Not all migrant workers struggle to advance themselves after leaving their occupations; rather, many are successful in starting new businesses in their villages using the skills they acquired while working abroad. The results of the study suggest that the following could be

said about the human resource potential of migrant workers:

As farmers

The land in the Suralaga region is highly utilized for agriculture. Despite not being extremely extensive, the farming in this region is exceptionally fertile. The Suralaga inhabitants have carried on the farming tradition begun by their ancestors. Given the potential of the region and the fact that the bulk of the population of Suralaga District is now made up of farmers who were originally migrant workers, they believe agriculture is a suitable fit for the region. Because there are no other employment options, the majority of migrant workers are employed in the agricultural sector.

Former Saudi Arabian migrant worker Zurriyatun Toyyibah now focuses on farming operations. She made the decision to work as a migrant because she wants to use the savings from her salaries two years in Saudi Arabia to purchase land for a rice crop. She took care of this area and planted vegetables like chilies on it. Zurriyatun Toyyibah said, “instead of building house, I bought rice fields with the money I made working in Saudi Arabia. Currently, all I do is maintain the land I just bought and is being used to grow vegetables, eggplants, and chilies” (Interview on March 14, 2022).

As entrepreneur

In Suralaga district only a few former migrant workers become entrepreneurs. There aren't many people who own businesses. Former migrant workers turn to entrepreneurship by creating kiosks (little stores). Numerous types of entrepreneurship exist in communities of migrant workers

such as selling vegetables and coconut. Suralaga is a region that produces vegetable. This provides a chance for migrant laborers to expand their agricultural product-based companies. However, research in the field reveals that migrant workers also sell the agricultural goods of the local community, which are distributed to various marketplaces in Lombok, in addition to their own agricultural products. According to H. Muhammadun, a community member from Paok Lombok Timur hamlet said,

“Approximately 40 people in this hamlet including former migrant workers have successfully run vegetable business. Since they struggle to survive after leaving Malaysia back to their village in Indonesia, migrant workers turn to this kind of business. Even on credit, they dare to purchase a car for the purpose of transporting vegetables. In Lombok's markets, almost all vegetable vendors already have patrons. However, with the presence of many rivals and insufficient agricultural products, some of them buy vegetables in the market and sell them back to other regions all over Lombok traditional market.”

(Interview on March 14, 2022)

Beside vegetables, the coconut business also is very prospective in Lombok. In addition to specific plantings in their tiny gardens, coconut palms are typically planted around the perimeter of rice fields. Before the palm oil business grow in the modern market, the locals used coconut as a source of raw material for cooking oil. One of the former migrant workers, Arifin, became concerned about the coconut business possibilities and prospects. He created a coconut business that was shipped to another island particularly to the Java region. He decided to start a coconut business because Lombok has an abundance of coconut resources, but the islanders could

not use it, so he had to send it to Java. His efforts were highly fruitful; in one week, he exported up to three trucks' worth of coconuts. This is his attempt to survive and build regional commodity-based enterprises as a former migrant worker.

As cattlemen

Many male migrants workers favor purchasing farm animals with their remittances. One of the former migrant workers in Suralaga Village, Jalaludin now runs a successful poultry and egg farming operation. He hired several former migrant workers to work in his company. He is quite concerned about what happens to former migrant workers around the village and wants to assist them in finding a new job to survive, including assisting them in going back to work abroad. He did, however, describe his own farming difficulties in the Covid-19 era. Jalaluddin said,

"To be honest our situation is challenging right now. Additionally, I experienced losses as a result of the continually growing cost of inappropriate feed and the dropping selling price of chickens. The cost of maize feed is high but the cost of eggs is low, particularly in light of the Covid-19 outbreak. When we used to receive a price of IDR. 3000, it is now IDR. 4350 per kilo. Now, on average, we lose money breeding animals while paying our three employees a monthly wage of IDR. 2.5 million."

(Interview on March 13, 2022)

Along with Jalaluddin, another former migrant worker, Abu Hasiyah from the Gelumpang hamlet, also runs a small company that buys and sells local hens. According to what he has said, he first attempted to start a business selling cooking spices such as shrimp paste, onion, garlic, ginger, turmeric, and cooking oil, but subsequently he pursued

buying and selling local poultry. Fortunately, it was a sizable sum that motivated him to undertake this venture.

As a religious teacher and missionary

One finding in the sector is that former migrant workers frequently teach religion in local congregations and schools. Miftah, a former migrant worker, possesses the capacity as a teacher and a religious figure. He has eight years of work experience in Malaysia in addition to his career in the palm oil sector. He studies Islam in the Tablighi community there in his spare time. After returning from Malaysia in 2011, he started working as a religion instructor at a senior high school in the Suralaga district. With the Tablighi Jamaat group, he actively engages in preaching throughout the day by visiting mosques and people's houses. He commands the Village Consultative Body in the village of Paok, Lombok, and is well-liked for it.

As politician

A unique case where a former migrant worker succeeded in getting elected as a council member in East Lombok Regency was discovered in the field. Nurhasanah, a former migrant worker from Suralaga Village has now succeeded in joining the regional people's representative council of East Lombok. She belongs to the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), which is Indonesia's largest national party. She was once a migrant worker who spent six years working in Saudi Arabia alongside her husband to raise money for their business. She manages the money carefully from her time working as a migrant worker. Nurhasanah acquired property and constructed a home for her family. Her

earnings are also utilized as starting capital for a career in politics.

She was duly elected to office for two terms in a row. This mother of three children looks for the family as well as being involved in social activities. She actively aided the community, particularly with concerns about health and education, by joining the cadre of the Integrated Healthcare Center (Posyandu) and serving as a facilitator of the Area Social Institution for former migrant workers in her village. Her only goal in everything she does is to assist the neighborhood's less fortunate citizens. It accomplished step by step, and it wasn't in vain. "Nothing is in vain as long as we make an effort," is one of his catchphrases.

As Village Head

Former migrant workers also have the opportunity to take on leadership roles in their local areas. Their expertise and experience gained while they were migratory workers gave rise to this potential. The Suralaga, Paok Lombok, and Dasan Borok villages—the three research locations—showed migrant laborers' involvement in the leadership framework. Former migrant worker in Saudi Arabia, Jalaluddin is respected as the village chief in Suralaga. He spent five years working in Saudi Arabia before returning to the community and daring to run for village chief after accumulating enough money. He was therefore chosen to lead the village from 2013 to 2019, despite failing in his second term.

The similar case also happened in the village of Dasan Borok, a former migrant worker was able to take over as village leader. Former migrant worker Angga Sarimah have served as Dasan Borok village head from

2017 to 2023. He gained the position of village leader because of his experience and skill as a migrant worker in Malaysia. The public praised his leadership as being highly successful and popular. Angga Sarimah, who was himself a migrant worker, is keenly aware of the needs of migrant workers, which is what inspired him to make several breakthroughs to create migrant worker enterprises. Former Malaysian migrant worker Rasidi also succeeded in rising to the position of village leader in Paok Lombok. In 2018–2024, he succeeded in becoming a village leader, outperforming his rivals. His rise to this position cannot be isolated from the high level of social behavior he has demonstrated since taking the head of hamlet position. He never refused when his people request assistance especially when they got ill, he escorted them right to the hospital.

The Role of the Government in Improving Natural Resources and Human Resources for Migrant workers

The implementation of rural economic development is one of the initiatives to further maximize village development from all perspectives in an integrated and coordinated manner in order to reach the ultimate goal of development efficiently and effectively, namely fostering community welfare (Ciuchta & Finch, 2019:7; Wardiyanto et al., 2016:). The Dasan Borok village acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak has resulted in an economic issue in the area. The Dasan Borok village administration responded by putting into action a strategy that was believed to have been successful in reducing the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on

the neighborhood, notably on the hamlet's population of migrant workers

The Dasan Borok village administration cultivates migrant workers' human resources through socio-entrepreneurship. One of the steps taken by the central government to alleviate the socioeconomic effects of the Covid-19 outbreak on society at large is this program. While taking into account the local terrain, Dasan Borok village has a lot of potential to expand businesses in the agricultural and livestock industries. They aid the Dasan Borok hamlet in making the most of its natural resources by helping the neighborhood and providing seeds for agriculture and animals. Dasan Borok's village chief, Angga Sarimah said,

"The micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Dasan Borok village are better at managing the local resources that are available. They make their chips out of agricultural items like sweet potatoes and pumpkins, which are used as raw materials. Farmers supply the raw materials, and MSMEs make and process products like dry and wet snacks. The local government also provides money to MSMEs, which can significantly strengthen and assist local economies, in addition to farmers " (Interview dated March 17, 2022).

In particular for the group of migrant workers in this village, the strategy and policy developed by the Dasan Borok Village government helped to recover from the local economic crisis during the Covid-19 epidemic era. MSMEs can be established by both the government and the community. Therefore, in order to improve their social lives, welfare systems should be implemented as part of MSMEs' empowerment. Everything must be in keeping with the neighborhood's sense of independence and autonomy.

The Suralaga village administration's strategy is comparable to Dasan Birok in that it concentrates on striving to strengthen the local population's economy by providing finance support and entrepreneurial training. Although the community has been made aware of the training program, their character has not altered. Many migrant workers elect to return as migrant workers even though it is unlawful because of the substantial economic problems they are facing as a result of their inability to adapt to new information and skills. The village authority of Suralaga is aware of this problem and thinks that helping migrant workers in Suralaga gain access to work illegally abroad will be the best solution. Jalaluddin told his story and his current condition,

"Through my profession, I've experienced both the sweetness and the bitterness of being a migrant worker. I constantly disagreed with a lecturer from the University of Mataram when I was the village chief about the position of migrant workers. I told him not to expect Suralaga to show up if there were no migrant laborers there. I advised him to look at the nice homes that are all funded by the income of migrant workers rather than trying to close down the institution of migrant workers distributor. If you prevent them from being migratory workers, can you afford to pay their salary?"

(Interview on March 13, 2020)

Developing Migrant Workers' Socio-Entrepreneurship

The Covid-19 outbreak has had a big impact on the community's socioeconomic life, especially that of migrant workers. The bulk of foreign workers have been sent back and even dismissed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The main source of income for migrant workers was restricted during the

pandemic. They should therefore have a plan to survive by developing socio-entrepreneurship that takes into account their conditions. By upholding the objectives of modifying and enhancing societal values and by creating a range of opportunities for changes, a socio-entrepreneur may assume the role of a change agent (Santosa, 2007). This idea holds that socio-entrepreneurs have the ability to develop social benefits that benefit other groups in addition to economic firms.

One of the pioneers who assisted the community in developing its socio-entrepreneurial abilities was the *dasan borok* village leader and former migrant worker, Angga Sarimah. Angga was successful in developing his socio-entrepreneurial abilities. He developed a variety of groundbreaking initiatives that benefited the community's economy, especially that of the migrant laborers in the village of *Dasan Borok*. This provided a platform for the migrant workers to expand their enterprises and enable them to withstand the COVID pandemic.

Socio-entrepreneurs are at least primarily comprised of four components: social values, civil society, innovation, and economic activity (Palesangi, 2012). These four components serve as the fundamental framework for claims that Angga Sarimah, a former migrant worker, has the potential to add value to the *Dasan Borok* community through socio-entrepreneurship. The following is an explanation of the components:

First, *societal value*. The goal of socio-entrepreneurship is to provide genuine social benefits for the neighborhood and the environment, and this is its most defining characteristic. For the community's

economic growth, Angga Sarimah significantly benefits migrant labor. His job as village chief is crucial to the growth of the enterprise that was started and is anticipated to help migrant workers whose economies have been struggling. Due to the fact that migrant workers still rely heavily on revenue from outside, Angga Sarimah was able to rally migrant workers, particularly female migrant workers, to create Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). In order for migrant workers' businesses to thrive and expand, Angga also offers training them. One of the training entails imparting abilities and knowledge to enable the management of agricultural products into goods with added value, such as yam chips, pumpkin pudding, and mushroom nuggets.

The second, is civil society. The concept of socio-entrepreneurship is often derived from the initiative and involvement of civil society through the optimum use of social capital already present in the community. One of the core components of socio-entrepreneurship is the function of civil society organizations in expanding business opportunities. The community should be encouraged to take an active role in developing the resources that civil society provides for them by launching this program. This position once served as a significant source of social capital for the program. Because of their strong networking and mutual trust, migrant workers in *Dasan Borok Village* play a crucial role in the socio-entrepreneurship growth of the community. As a result, the MSMEs founded by Angga Sarimah, the village chief, may expand quickly. On the one hand, migrant workers are eager to participate in this program because it has the potential to boost society's

economy. Instead of expecting to return to their destination country, they prefer to build the region's capacity in their village through activities like farming, raising livestock, and plantations.

The third, *innovation*. By implementing creative programs that integrate local knowledge and social innovation, socio-entrepreneurship successfully addresses social issues. The socio-entrepreneurship development of migrant workers, who are negatively impacted economically by Covid-19, includes innovation. The innovations that emerged to solve problems and boost the economy were diverse. One of them is maturing catfish, something no one in this village has ever done before. The maturing catfish program is the government's ongoing assistance to those affected by COVID-19. The goal of this program, Budi daya lele bawah prinisan (Bule Baper), is to mature catfish beneath the edge of the roof. This breakthrough gave migrant laborers fresh hope for increasing their economic potential.

The fourth, economic activity. Socio-entrepreneurship typically succeeds when commercial and social activities are combined equally. Development of the economy and society is necessary to maintain the organization's social mission. Equilibrium between the social and economic spheres becomes a basic component of socio-entrepreneurship. In order to solve their financial difficulties after being fired by their employers and returning home, migrant workers want the ability to create an organization. Many innovations that emerge need a solid framework and foundation that may be passed down to future generations.

Catfish farming and the development of MSMEs in the Dasan Borok hamlet allow migrant workers to become more independent and withstand the Covid-19 pandemic without relying on assistance from the national government.

CONCLUSION

Covid-19 has had a wide impact on the lives of local and global communities, especially on groups of migrant workers. The policy of closing companies by the government in order to reduce the number of Covid-19 has led to termination of employment and deportation. In addition to facing problems at the workplace, after returning home, migrant workers also face the same problem because they do not have new jobs. They cannot even work because of restrictions on activities and social interactions in the community. Economic challenges add to the burden of migrant workers while living in their home's town. They should be a priority group that should be assisted by the government through special policies, but in fact they have not been specifically targeted. Therefore, the village government's breakthrough in helping migrant workers during Covid-19 is a new breakthrough and innovation in the context of developing the economy of migrant workers so that they can survive during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Suralaga district, which is a part of East Lombok, is one of the areas that sends the most migrant workers abroad. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Suralaga sub-district authority confronted a massive influx of migrant workers returning from the countries where they worked. Their reappearance has created a new societal concern in the

middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic, which has prompted a labor crisis. The government has reduced, if not fully closed, social and economic zones for businesses like as malls and other retail facilities. So becoming a part of social entrepreneurship is one of the right initiatives presented by the village government to migrant workers in order for them to survive in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Migrant workers' talents, knowledge, and natural resources can be leveraged into social entrepreneurship projects. So becoming a part of social entrepreneurship is one of the right initiatives presented by the village government to migrant workers in order for them to survive in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Migrant workers' talents, knowledge, and natural resources can be leveraged into social entrepreneurship projects. These are the study findings and focus that contribute to the innovation of this article, which also fills gaps in past writings.

The mapping of human resources and natural resources possessed by migrant workers in the Suralaga sub-district region demonstrates that the potential of migrant workers to be developed is extremely good and diverse. Some migrant workers have become farmers, entrepreneurs, priests, politicians, and local authorities, specifically village chiefs, after returning from the countries where they worked. During the Covid-19 period, their assets in the form of agricultural land and home industry output increased value, as the village administration developed a network of managing these products into a micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) program. The migrant worker business network is structured in

the manner of social entrepreneurship in order to strengthen other migrant worker organizations. H. Jalaluddin, a former migrant worker, uses the migrant worker network to support his chicken-raising and egg-selling business.

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