



Article

**The Motivation and Outcomes from English Teaching and Learning
for Indonesian Migrant Workers in Kuala Lumpur**

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ABSTRACT:

This study was aimed to describe English teaching and learning for Indonesian migrant workers. The activity has been happening in Sekolah Indonesia Kuala Lumpur since 2011 which has been joined by hundreds participants. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. This study used observation, interview and documentation delivered to the tutors and the migrant workers.

The result showed that the process of English teaching and learning for Indonesian migrant workers was very conducive, we can see the outcomes rapidly. Participant was able to improve their performance and seen looks better by the employers. Participant also able to get better wages because they can work with expatriates who only speaks English for communications. Other than that, migrant workers was feeling good by having community with the same background.

This research is useful for people especially who works overseas to contribute in supporting migrant workers' education in order to improve their performance and quality of their lifes.

Key words: English Teaching and Learning, Improve the quality of workers, Indonesian Migrant Workers

INTRODUCTION

In 2022 the population of Indonesia is around 275 million individuals, this caused Indonesia called as populous country. With the bulk number of population, makes Indonesia struggle in various factors such as high unemployment, low education, poor wealth, and low poverty (Todaro, 2015). Every year the number of job seekers is increasing, this caused Indonesian government looks for strategies to send workers overseas which will also help the economic growth. According to International Labour Organization migrant workers also contribute to host countries' economies that is why many countries accept migrant workers to enter their territories.

By the growth of population, minimum skills and education, low salary, and high competition, people are interested in job overseas. The migrant worker candidates usually

will get the training for basic knowledge of obligations, right, foreign language, procedures and mechanisms that must be carried out when faced some problems related to law in the destination country where they will work (Sari, 2022). There are many destination countries for Indonesian migrant workers such as Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea. English is not become crucial thing needs to master for the candidates who wants to work in Malaysia. However, English is used as their second language for daily communications especially this country also become one of the favourite destination by the expatriate. This caused Indonesian worker still left behind compared to other migrant workers from other countries such as from Philippines, Bangladesh, and others.

The presence of foreign migrant workers in the host country is often underestimated by the local people. Hence, many cases of violence, sexual harassment, and humanitarian cases were found from Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia.

Sundays are holidays for migrant workers and they use sundays to attend trainings. One of the training attended the most is English class in Sekolah Indonesia Kuala Lumpur (SIKL) held by Edukasi Untuk Bangsa (EUB). These migrant workers will come to the class, taught by the trainers and will practice to their pairs while going to some places in their off day.

In regards to English teaching and learning activity to Indonesian migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur, this study aims to determine how Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia perceive this activity and what is the outcome they got. Hopefully, this research will give some useful information about Indonesian migrant workers' experience in improving English skills for all of the readers especially to other migrant workers all over the world. This study is expected to be used to reference further researchers to research in different areas.

Method

The data collection and categorization of this study was limited to the participant of Edukasi Untuk Bangsa for migrant workers education, which are consist of household assistant, cleaning service and factory operators. This study used a qualitative research with descriptive qualitative, having gathered the primary data through in-depth interviews and participation observation on education and migrant community activities. Interviews were conducted online. Secondary data was also collected from library research. This paper is divided into several parts. First, an explanation on motivation from migrant worker joining this activity. Second, strategy took by migrant worker in learning English. Third, explanation of Edukasi Untuk Bangsa. Fourth, limitation faced by migrant workers. Fifth, the conclusion.

Previous Research

Research about education for migrant workers has been conducted by many, Paulus Rudolf Yuniarto in 2021 has conducted research in by title Migrant Workers Empowerment Through Vocational Education And Community-Based Learning: A Study Case of Indonesian In Taiwan 2019 which focused on capacity building, stakeholder can develop network within migrant communities and promote migrant skill improvement and provide a pathway for the workers' future as well.

Other research also done by ILO in 2018, migrant community-based education (including knowledge sharing) can have positive social externalities modifying the migrant worker at society level: it contributes to social capital as well as human capital.

Suryaneta and Yuherina in 2021 also conducted research, purported to gain a more

thoughtful and insightful understanding of female Indonesian migrant workers' perceptions and experiences on online learning in Taiwan.

In this research, the researcher will focus on the strategy and outcome in learning English by Indonesian migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

Discussions

1. Migrant Motivation in Joining English Teaching and Learning

For migrant workers, English Teaching and learning activity was something that they never imagine to attend. Considering the English training is very expensive and usually will active in weekday, so there was no opportunity for them to join in their busy work. Pursuing up-skill program is a good achievement by the migrant workers since the image for them is "low education workers" by many people. An employer is motivated when he participates in the activity which gives happiness, fulfillment, or attainment of positive result (Deci& Ryan, 2019).

The issues about migrant workers are varied, (Fakai, 2022) told about The importance of current issues with motivation. Issue faced by the Indonesian migrant workers also be the motivation joining the English class. The motivations are varied such as:

- a. Getting higher income. Migrant workers usually look for part time job such as part time maid in some apartments or condominium where the clients are expatriate from different countries such as United Kingdom, India, Singapore and other countries who don't speak Bahasa Indonesia or Bahasa Melayu. By taking this job, Indonesian migrant worker can earn more respect as well better pay.
- b. Having better performance in their work and look better by the employers. As we read in some news there are many cases faced by the Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia like sexual harrasment and violence, by joining classess they hope they can be look better by their employers.
- c. Having good community to share their problems. Indonesian migrant workers has only one day off which is Sunday. It is not an easy thing to have comunity to share and having good relation one anothers, this activity can be one of the way to foster friendship.
- d. Prepare themselves when return to Indonesia. Working as migrant worker is not eternal, there will always be planning to back to Indonesia. To prepare this, Indonesian migrant workers willing to get more skills for their better life.

2. Indonesian Migrant Workers' Strategy in Learning English

Due to the lack of study time, migrant workers must have effective strategies to maximize this English teaching and learning activity. Every learners will have different learning strategy. They usually will find the best way based on their working hour and environment condition. Aside from joining the class, they will practice English to their pairs, chatting to tutors use English, taking notes, and practice English to their employers who also speak Bahasa Melayu. Mostly they look fortheir own ways to improve their English by practicing more.

3. Edukasi Untuk Bangsa (EUB)

Edukasi Untuk Bangsa (EUB) is an organization for free charity program for Indonesian migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. The purpose of EUB itself is to improve the quality of the workers and give education access to Indonesian migrant workers. Started from concerns about the condition of migrant workers and several cases happened to Indonesian migrant workers such as harshness, sexual harassment, too low wages, and to compete Indonesian workers with other countries. EUB intends to address these problems by improving the quality of Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia especially in Kuala Lumpur by getting education access.

The tutors in EUB are the expatriate workers and also university students from Indonesia who use English in their daily basis. There will be micro teaching before joining tutors to ensure the training is effective.

There is already lesson plan which compiled by the team collaborate with Sekolah Indonesia Kuala Lumpur. This organization is recognized and protected by Indonesian Embassy. The first class by EUB was in 2011 in a small restaurant in Kuala Lumpur and now they use classes in Sekolah Indonesia Kuala Lumpur.

4. Limitation on Teaching and Learning Activity

Indonesian migrant workers only have 1 day off per week and the class duration is only 1,5 hour per week. Time constraints are an obstacle in maximizing learning activities considering that participants also attend other classes such as sewing, computers, entrepreneurship, and coding. The only way that can do is by practicing what they get from the class.

5. Outcome

One of the purpose in this study is to know the outcome and benefits reaped by the participants. Based on the interview to the participants, tutors, ex-participants who has returned to Indonesia, and also the chairman of the organization, there are many benefits has been reaped by the participants:

- a. Better view by the employers. According to Margaret and Linda (2001) Community help people able to do reflection and having changes in their lives. Participant found out that the community built in English training change their point of view. This also impact to their action in responding every case faced, way to communicate, and strategy in work. These caused them have better performance and quality which also change their employers perception about Indonesian migrant workers.
- b. Improve monthly income. Participants use their off day to make money such as part time maid and selling handcraft. Their market is now growing not only to local Malaysian or Indonesian but also other countries because they can communicate in English. Aspart time maid, they can earn around 70RM per hour compare to their monthly salary around 1300RM.
- c. Participants who also have families in Malaysia are able to teach their children to speak English so they don't lag behind others and are able to keep up with technological and cultural developments. This also practiced by the ex-participants who has returned to Indonesia, they can be partner for their children who learn English as foreign language.

Conclusion

From this study, we can see that the Indonesian migrant workers have high

motivation to pursue English class in order to change the negative stereotype that they were left behind and to have a better life when they are in the host country as well when they came back to Indonesia. Hence, Edukasi Untuk Bangsa was able to facilitate the migrant workers who had the motivation to pursue English class in their day off. There were some problems encountered, especially time limitations. The migrant workers could not add class time due to other responsibilities and distractions. Despite on that, they have their mobile phone to be able to learn independently. Several learning strategies were conducted to overcome the problem, such as peer and tutor practicing, and note-taking. Pursuing up-skills especially English have very good impact on their performance and pay. The migrant workers still need education also social support to improve their performance.

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