

# **“SHARED VALUES” AS A SOCIAL FACTOR IN MANAGEMENT OF REMITTANCE IN THE MIGRANT FAMILY**

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## ***Abstract***

*In economics, remittance is family income. Thus, the discussion of the use of remittance is identical with the analysis of the income management as well. In many studies that have been conducted on management of remittance as a family income, generally, the analysis is focused on economic aspect affecting the management of that income, or the benefits of remittance in improving the economic wealth or welfare for the family. This paper lies at the intersection of the considerable scholarly literatures, on economic factors that underlie the decision-making, and the reality of the working of the “shared values” variable, affecting the considerations of agent. Focusing on the analysis of the management of remittance on migrant families in 3 villages in the district Bululawang, Malang-Indonesia, this paper tries to analyze the “shared values” characteristic influences the behavior of agent in managing their income. Those “shared values” are: (a) the physical value of the house as a marker of social status, (b) the meaning of gender relation for the agent..*

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*Keywords: shared values, remittances, family income.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

**T**he significant number of international migrant from Indonesia, leads the consequence of the big remittances that sent to their families too. As a note, based on various data during the period of 1985-2005, there had been an increase in the number of international migrants from each island in Indonesia. Moreover, from the data of the World Bank, the amount of remittances had reached; 6,794 million U.S. dollars in 2008. In 2009 6,793 million; 6,916 million in 2010; 6,924 in 2011, and in 2012, 7,180 million U.S. dollars. The previous number are enormous, especially when it is associated with the discussion on welfare of community.

According to International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, 2008), these remittances are 'financial counterpart' which is 'the result' of migration from the financial side as well as a real contribution to the

development of migrant origin. In line with this, Haas (2007) also delivered that migration and remittances as well as the potential to improve the welfare (well-being), stimulate the economic growth and directly and indirectly reduce poverty.

In Indonesia, remittance is also considered to be the source of welfare, from its support to the economic sustainability of family or household economy. In the framework of aggregate economic analysis. Remittance is included in the discussion of the *Marginal Propensity to Consume* (MPC). In the meantime, this income is identical with the discussion of the economic behaviour of households, mainly the concept of wealth (welfare) and utility (satisfaction) in the individual study.

However, in the case of Indonesian labour migrant (the so-called TKI), an overview of changes in consumption due to income, is being little bit different. In many ways, people consider the TKI as "poor" due to inadequate income. Thus, due to psychological conditions (i.e. poverty) in this group, when there is a significant rise in income earned from overseas compared to working in local job field, there will be a large increase in consumption. The significant rise of income creates the "leap" of consumption

Another interesting point in the concept of income for this migrant workers is, the reality that the management of that income is not only influenced by their individual decision, but also certainly influenced by their husband/wife, parents, children, and relatives. Thus, if in the theory of income in economics, the decision-making usage of income (consumption) is based on individual considerations recipient of such income, then this theory is not applicable on TKI's condition. This condition can be viewed as a differentiator between remittance with other types of income. Although remittance is equally as income, but because it is more complex and involves a lot of hands (with the family wishes or even cultural differences), "remittance" will certainly reveal many interesting and important reality to be studied further. In a short, the management of remittance is not only related to those individual who generate it alone.

The neoclassical economics explain the issue of management of income in the study of wealth and utility. This analysis is little bit different from the phenomenon of remittances usages. It is commonly understood that

classical/neoclassical economics is a science-centered (nexus) on rationality, individualism, and equilibrium. "Economic rationality" can be understood as an act of personal interests in order to achieve maximum satisfaction (Zavirovski, 2003). On this basis, then the economic problems, the central assumption, is used to analyze about the rationality. Furthermore, this assumption is necessary to build a theory that has predictive power over human behavior to meet their needs. Rationality later became the basis of all models in modern economic theory developed to date. Within the individual, "rationality" is embodied in the availability of knowledge or estimates (considerations) the result of something done. Furthermore, self-interest, become the point here. Economics literature explains in the concept of rationality, economic actors to act rationally if he did something that suits his self-interest.

The important thing to be emphasized in the view of this conventional economics is that the concentration of the increase in utility "only" directed at the values of materialism (without touching the spiritual and ethical values) in community life. In the fact, in the further traces sometimes there are individual economic actions that are not backed by the economic aspects/considerations only but also affected by noneconomic or social motivations. Similarly, in terms of remittance issue in its utilization, there are times when remittance is not merely an act against the backdrop of economic motives. In reality, in the usage of remittances, there are other things outside of the economic factors that affects someone in the management of his remittance. According to Chow (2007), internal migration in China creates unique opportunity to learn how value Traditional Filial Piety has required their offspring to make their income, partially or overall, used to support their families in place origin. Thus, it can be said that in the management of revenues (remittances), the decisions on it are not only backed by purely economic motives (eg, desire to eat to achieve maximum utility and further define wealth), but also influenced by other things outside individual economic considerations mean. Haas (2007) also revealed migration and remittances that are part of the decision making that is important and not only the individual concerned, but also about family and other things.

As a consequence of the desire to analyze other dimensions in the problem of management of remittances, besides using its own basic neoclassical

economic thinking, this research also enrich the discussion by analyzing through the view of other disciplines, in this case is socio-economic. As Guillen (2011) noted, it is commonly understood that neoclassical economic theory portrays economic actors in a quite atomistic fashion as if they were in social vacuum, carefully weighting costs and benefits, and with an eye to promote their self-interest. But, if we look at economic problems at a more holistic view, that human beings are not viewed only as *homo economicus* but also *homo sociologicus*, then we understand that there are other reason than economics motives alone that influence agent's act.

This research reveals that there is a social motives (outside of the economic motive) i.e value, especially "shared value", that underlie their decision to use the income they earn from working abroad, and wanted to uncover, what shared value are that influence their decision to use their income. Many studies have been done on the use of these remittances, mostly mapping it in two aspects; consumptive or productive usage. *Adams and Cuecuecha* (2007) who conducted a study to analyze the impact of international remittances on poverty and household consumption and investment in Indonesia said that the poverty rate factor which will determine the consumptive use of remittance. This means that the poor international migrant workers, will likely increasingly consumptive in their remittance's management. While *Malone* (2007) through his studies in Mexico had evaluated the ability of migrant remittance for spur the development of *human capital* through investments in children. *Molone's* study revealed that sex workers who migrate and gender of the recipient will determine the pattern of allocation of remittances. This study shows that migrant remittances sent by Dad will be managed productively for investment, primarily for *human capital* investment in children. *Rosen* (2007) through his study of remittances and risk-tolerance, uncovering the reality that perceptions of receiving remittances will affect the management of remittances for productive rather than consumptive.

From many studies that have been around, yet many key issues such as analyzing what social variable that affects the management of remittance, before analyzing its impact on the welfare of migrant or migrant's family. In addition, most of analysis these studies is conducted with the positivistic view. Otherwise not many studies that analyze the utilization of remittance

by interpretive view, mainly in what aspects that shape the behavior of individual in the utilization of remittance.

The objective of this study is explore and explain in depth the issues of shared value in the management of remittance with interpretive viewpoint..

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

On the consideration of the complexity of the research question to be answered on non positivistic paradigm, so this study used the qualitative research methods for the analysis. The individual behavior in making the decisions for their income are not only viewed in the causes of economic motives that consentrate on (i) gain, (ii) profit, or (iii) something that has a material value, but also from the standpoint of other causations beyond the economic issues. These causations are the noneconomic motives, where are often seen as the factors that operate outside of the economics law.

This study was conducted in Malang. In particular, this study taken the informants of international migrant workers (TKI) conducted in 3 villages in the district Bululawang, Malang regency.

The unit of analysis in this study is the allocation of family income (remittance) associated with the interactions between the individuals in the revenue management process by the TKI and their family, and also the perception of the actors in the process of interaction, especially regarding the shared values that underlie the decision-making.

The informants of this study are: (1) the TKI and their families, that were able to express the perceptions, attitudes and actions when "dealing" with the "environment" in determining decision-making in relation to the management of their remittance, (2) other parties from which the data can be obtained (also serves as a test of the validity of the data), which is directly or indirectly involved in the determination of the decision-making process on the management of remittance, and (3) supporting informant (who also serves as a test of the validity of the data). The research data collection is done by emphasizing the process rather than the outcome.

The data were collected using several methods: (1) unstructured interviews to explore the complexity of issues in depth (2) field observations were carried out by put the investigators on the position of the investigated

person. For the test of the validity, this study uses triangulation (using multiple sources of information in order to verify and strengthen the data) either in the different data collection methods (interviews and observations) and the use of informants supporters.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained by this study suggest that the aspects of shared value have underlie the behavior of individuals in the management of their remittance. Those “shared values” are: (a) the physical value of the house as a marker of social status, (b) the meaning of gender relation for the agent.

The shared value aspects that related to the management of remittances that have been cultivated by the community in the area of research is their perspectives on the success of working abroad. This perspective have been internalized in their aspects of life and their circumstances and become the agreed value among them. In this case, the value of the success of individual e.g the physical value of home that "luxury", complete with interior in it, are highlighted on their.

The results and field observation of this study, shown that in the form of house building that contained by family of TKI, it can be easily identified which house is the most striking in the appeal of the nearest neighbors. The aspect of shared value that can be identified here are: houses which is large, with the strong color of paint or the wall of the houses are tiled. Furthermore, these houses are also equipped with the latest trend of furnishings and furniture, plus household electronic devices, or anything else that can be something as markers and affirmation of the success story of working abroad.

According to Daskon and Binns (2009) the individuals and the community does have its own values, and so are the meanings, habits, knowledge systems, that define the identity and the differences in diversity and play a key role in the sustainability of livelihoods.

The Aspect of *shared value* of the success stories highlighted in the physical form of the house building as a social identity can be observed in the shape of houses which are tend to be uniform among them, with the physical characteristics that are easily recognizable. For themigrant workers and

their families, the physical value of the house viewed as the success story of working abroad, as well as a marker of social identity/status in their society.

The next aspect of shared value obtained in this study is the reality of the meaning of gender relations among the migrant workers and their families. The results of field studies and observations got the information about the fact that many migrants who go abroad are female workers. From another point of view, there is also considered that the phenomenon of the high mobility of migrant workers as an indication of the aggressiveness of the mobility of women compared to the men.

Specifically, the case is referred to as evidence of the erosion of the hegemony of patriarchal oriented power system or in other conditions; it is still in a patriarchal hegemony, but with a lot of leeway (see Daulay, 2001: 8-9).

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Many of people considerations refer to the loosening of the power system as a result of global capitalism. This consideration is based on the reason that the permissive husband that gave the permission to his wife to work abroad shows that migrant families are more egalitarian. The supporter of theories of feminism who often did the elaboration of the patriarchal-matriarchal concepts, domination and hegemony by gender background, etc, are often identified the capitalism as the main variable as a causation in the analysis of gender relations rather than to see it in terms of another.

Meanwhile on the aspects of woman migrant that departure to abroad, this study has a little bit exaggerated. Based on the findings in the field it can be known that the reason they got permission by their husband (for married woman) or family (for unmarried woman) are the economic limitations and the closing opportunities for men. Of all the informants who met said that there was no reason for permissiveness that is backed by reason of the egalitarianity or the awareness of gender relation.

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