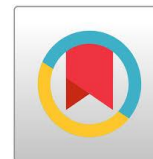


Analysis of Survival Strategies for Illegal Indonesian Workers in Malaysia



Analisis Strategi Survival Tenaga Kerja Indonesia Ilegal Ke Malaysia

Misya Silvia^{1*}, Choirul Amin²

¹² Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Jawa Tengah

¹² Jl. A. Yani, Kabupaten Sukoharjo, Indonesia

Misyasilvia09@gmail.com^{1*}, Ca122@ums.ac.id^{2*}

Corresponding Author: Misyasilvia09@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFORMATION	
<p>Keywords <i>Survival Strategy;</i> <i>Migrant Workers;</i> <i>illegal;</i></p>	<p>ABSTRACT The increase in illegal Indonesian workers (TKI) every year is a polemic in itself; the opportunity to become an illegal TKI can be detrimental to the state and individual TKI because they will not get their rights and are vulnerable to problems with inappropriate labor administration. The Indonesian government must immediately resolve this problem to ensure that there are no more illegal Indonesian migrant workers coming to Malaysia. This research uses a qualitative method by collecting data through interviews, observation, and documentation from three sources on the survival of illegal migrant workers working in Malaysia. The analysis uses spatial and narrative analysis. This is a novelty in this research and direct observations in the field by the author. The research results show that the main factors for illegal migrant workers going to Malaysia are the availability of jobs, high wages, and the lure of families working there. The workers chose to be illegal because they did not have a valid visa, did not want to renew their advanced visa or a tourist visa, and switched to becoming workers in Malaysia. As for surviving as an illegal worker, the survival strategy for surviving as an illegal worker is to carry out economic, social, legal, and political survival strategies. This research is important to follow up on because many Indonesian citizens are still interested in working abroad illegally and not complying with established regulations, which can harm various parties.</p>
<p>Kata Kunci Strategi Survival; TKI; Ilegal;</p>	<p>ABSTRAK Meningkatnya tenaga kerja Indonesia (TKI) ilegal setiap tahunnya menjadi polemik tersendiri, adanya kesempatan untuk menjadi TKI ilegal dapat merugikan negara dan pribadi TKI karena tidak akan mendapatkan hak-hak nya serta rentan dalam masalah administrasi ketenagakerjaan yang tidak sesuai. Pemerintah Indonesia harus segera menyelesaikan permasalahan ini untuk memastikan tidak ada lagi TKI ilegal Indonesia ke Malaysia. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pengumpulan data melalui wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi dengan tiga narasumber survival TKI ilegal yang bekerja di Malaysia, adapun analisisnya menggunakan spasial dan analisis naratif hal ini menjadi kebaruan dalam penelitian ini serta adanya observasi langsung ke lapangan oleh penulis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa faktor utama TKI ilegal pergi ke Malaysia karena tersedianya lapangan pekerjaan, upah tinggi, iming-iming keluarga yang bekerja disana. Adapun pekerja memilih ilegal karena tidak memiliki visa yang sah, tidak mau memperbaharui visa lanjutan, serta visa turis dan beralih menjadi pekerja di Malaysia. Adapun untuk bertahan menjadi pekerja ilegal strategi survival dalam bertahan sebagai tenaga kerja ilegal yaitu dengan menjalani strategi survival ekonomi, sosial, hukum dan politik. Penelitian ini menjadi penting untuk ditindak lanjuti kerana masih banyaknya peminat warga Indonesia untuk bekerja di luar negeri secara ilegal dan tidak mematuhi regulasi yang telah ditetapkan yang dapat merugikan berbagai pihak.</p>
<p>Article History Send 18th November 2023 Review 16th December 2023 Accepted 12th February 2024</p>	<p>Copyright ©2024 Jurnal Aristo (Social, Politic, Humaniora) This is an open access article under the CC-BY-NC-SA license. Akses artikel terbuka dengan model CC-BY-NC-SA sebagai lisensinya.</p>



Introduction

According to Law No. 13 of 2003, every person who is allowed to work to produce commodities and services, either to meet their personal needs or the needs of other people or society, is considered a workforce (Suhandi et al., 2021). A decrease in demand for labor in Indonesia can result in a decrease in workers' income, so that in certain situations it will cause the movement of labor from one region to another and even from one country to another (Waluyo & Sulistyono, 2018). This is caused by an imbalance between supply and demand for labor in the labor market in Indonesia. So Indonesia has an excess supply of labor compared to the demand for labor in the labor market, causing sustainability to emerge (Dani Pramusinto et al., 2019). The government has responded to the decline in demand for labor in Indonesia by creating the Indonesian Workers (TKI) program, which sends workers to other countries in an effort to overcome the problem. The government focuses its interests on training, protection, and providing various facilities for parties involved in this program, especially TKI and Indonesian Employment Services Companies (PJTKI), both legal and illegal companies (Heriyanto, 2019; Bantenese et al., 2020).

The migration of migrant workers abroad is part of the global migration phenomenon. Most of them move abroad to find work and improve their standard of living. According to the National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers (BNP2TKI), Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia are one of the largest host countries for Indonesian workers with jobs offered as workers, caregivers, operators, plantations and general work (Maksum et al., 2020; Setyono, 2018; Zulfikar, 2019).

According to the Manpower and Transmigration Service, Malaysia is the largest destination for migrant workers and the number continues to increase every year. In 2022, the number of female and male migrant workers in Malaysia will reach 16,883 people (DKAN, 2023). This is due to the close geographical location between Indonesia and Malaysia, the use of Malay in daily life which is similar to Indonesian, the abundant availability of job vacancies, high wages, and affordable travel costs (Abd Razak & Wan Azhar, 2021).

The jobs most sought after by migrant workers include roles as household assistants, factory workers, and various other professions (Bukhari et al., 2021). However, there are often problems faced by migrant workers such as unpaid wages, acts of violence from employers, sexual harassment, extortion, and other criminal acts (Yasmine, 2019; Mehedintu et al., 2020; Anggara Putra et al., 2019). Apart from that, there are problems with migrant workers breaking the law because they do not have complete documents and do not follow established procedures (Anwartinna, 2019). Many of the problems caused by illegal migrant workers are their origins

in poor households and the various problems they face due to their lack of educational background. This raises concerns for the Indonesian and Malaysian parties (Abdi, Fritho, 2023).

The problem of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia continues to increase every year. In 2021, of the total 2.7 million TKI in Malaysia, around 50% of them will be illegal TKI (Lendong, 2021). Then, in 2022, the number of illegal migrant workers leaving for Malaysia will increase by 146% compared to the previous year (Judith Aura, 2022). In 2023, there will be around 9 million Indonesian citizens working as TKI abroad. However, only around 4,686,190 TKI work in accordance with the law, while around 4.5 million others work illegally or outside the law (Maulana, 2023). In order to survive, illegal migrant workers create survival strategies that are used to overcome various problems in their environment, both in terms of behavior and actions (Nguyen, 2020). Survival strategies are methods that individuals or groups of people use to combat existing conditions that are unstable or are becoming unstable, whether they are physical or psychological (Alabshar et al., 2020).

Each strategy that can be implemented by the general public to maintain their survival while coping with the environment is as follows: frugality (reducing current consumption), hoarding (accumulating and storing assets), depleting (selling assets), diversifying (diversifying work or income), claim (search for new opportunities), and move (migration). Survival strategy is the way individuals develop strategies that are influenced by the individual's or group's position in the structure of society, chosen belief systems, and social networks, including expertise in mobilizing existing resources, skill level, asset ownership, type of work, gender status, and personal motivation (Putra, 2019; Yusuf et al., 2021). One of the areas used in this research is Kajang Sub-District, Hulu Langat District, Selangor, Malaysia. This region is one of the regions with approximately 1000 migrant workers.

In conducting this research, the author referred to several previous research results conducted by Ali Maksum and Surwandono, which focused on analyzing Japanese and Malaysian government policies towards illegal migrant workers (Maksum & Surwandono, 2018). Research conducted by Fansuo An and Tom Bramble focused on empirically examining the factors that determine Chinese migrant workers' silence when their rights are violated and the consequences (An & Bramble, 2018). Research conducted by Hamdi et al. focused on the survival strategies of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Suralaga, East Lombok (Hamdi et al., 2022). Research conducted by Agus and Novia focused on the survival strategies of migrant workers affected by the lockdown policy in Teluk Keramat District, Sambas Regency (Yuliono & Nurhidayanti, 2022).

Based on the results of previous research, there is a need for research that focuses on analyzing the characteristics of illegal migrant workers who go to Malaysia and the survival strategies they use to avoid immigration operations or raids. This aims to gain deeper insight into how illegal migrant workers try to survive in challenging and complex conditions. This research is interesting and important to study in more depth because it can be used as material for the Indonesian government's evaluation of Indonesian workers who are abroad, so that the government can also pay attention to Indonesian workers who are abroad. Through this analysis, we can understand their welfare conditions and the level of legal protection they have. The results of this research can also provide valuable input for designing better and more effective migration policies, considering aspects of legalization, supervision, and social welfare.

Method

The type of research used is descriptive-qualitative. Descriptive research is a research method in which the researcher asks each individual or group of individuals to describe their own lives. This method is known as systematic investigation. Then, using a descriptive chronology, the researchers updated their knowledge of the information obtained. In other words, descriptive-qualitative research is a type of research that displays currently existing data without manipulation or other treatments (Lestari & Saifuddin, 2020; Ahmadi et al., 2021).

The data sources in this research are divided into two categories: primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is data obtained from original sources. In this research, primary data was obtained from observations, interviews, and documentation with informants related to this research. The informants in this research are TKI 1, TKI 2, and TKI 3. Meanwhile, secondary data is data obtained indirectly from the source. Secondary data for this research was obtained by the author through library research such as books, journal articles, etc.

The research objects taken were illegal migrant workers who came from Indonesia and were working in Malaysia. The informant selection process is based on several predetermined criteria indicators, namely status as an illegal migrant worker or having been an illegal migrant worker in Malaysia, living and living in Malaysia, length of stay in Malaysia for more than 3 years, and having a job in Malaysia. In this research, three informants were used who fit these criteria. This step will enable research to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences and survival strategies used by illegal migrant workers working in Malaysia.

Data collection methods in this research are interviews, observation, and documentation. Interviews are to collect opinions, perceptions, feelings, and other information

related to conducting questions and answers with informants. This interview was conducted via telephone using the WhatsApp application, which was then recorded, and after that, a transcript of the interview results was made to process the data that had been obtained. This observation was carried out directly at the research location. Document analysis is a unique component of the research subject that is not included in interviews or observations, such as administrative letters, agendas, and other related documents (Fadli, 2021).

The data analysis method used in this research consists of two analyses, namely spatial analysis and narrative analysis. Spatial analysis is a method of spatial analysis where space is considered the main variable and other variables are considered supporting variables (Nafsi & Rahayu, 2020). The spatial analysis used in this research is to analyze the Malaysian region as a destination for illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. Narrative analysis is the process of critical investigation to produce descriptions and narratives as well as accurate and correct interpretations of events (Fadli, 2021). Narrative analysis in this research is used to describe the survival strategy of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. The use of this analysis method is easier to understand because it contains all components of the research data used.

Result and Discussion

Characteristics of Illegal TKI in Malaysia

The characteristics of illegal migrant workers are seen based on several indicators, namely name, gender, age, regional origin, place of residence in Malaysia, migrant worker status, length of stay, mobility, travel status, job in Malaysia, job in Indonesia, income, housing status, reasons for becoming a migrant worker. with this status, and plans to return to Indonesia. The following are the characteristics of illegal migrant workers who go to Malaysia:

The first illegal TKI, whose initials were TKI 1, was a 27-year-old woman from Sampang, Madura, East Java. Currently, he lives in Kajang, Malaysia, and has been an illegal migrant worker for 8 years. His mobility was recorded as using a tourist visa with legally valid travel status. TKI 1's job in Malaysia was as a housewife, while in Indonesia, previously, she did not have a permanent job. The income he currently receives cannot be ascertained, and the status of his house is rented. The main reason TKI 1 chose to become an illegal TKI was the difficulty in obtaining official documents due to slow government services and various bureaucratic obstacles. However, TKI 1 has plans to return to Indonesia after obtaining the required documents, but the time needed to complete the process is still a consideration (TKI 1, 2023).

The second illegal TKI, whose initials are TKI 2, is a 33-year-old man from Madura, East Java. Currently, he lives in Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, and has been part of the Indonesian workforce (TKI) for 12 years. Even though his current travel status is legal, TKI 2 had been an illegal TKI for the previous 2 years. His mobility was recorded using a tourist visa. In Malaysia, he worked as a market worker in the development sector, whereas previously in Indonesia, TKI 2 did not have a permanent job. TKI 2's monthly income ranges from 1500 RM to 2000 RM, with the house being rented. The decision to become a migrant worker, initially illegal and then legal, was influenced by economic factors that encouraged him to seek opportunities abroad. The complicated process of obtaining legal status is one of the obstacles faced. However, TKI 2 has plans to return to Indonesia within the next 2-3 years, indicating future planning after building experience and economic stability in Malaysia (TKI 2, 2023).

The third illegal TKI, whose initials are TKI 3, is a 42-year-old man from Madura, East Java. Currently, he lives in Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, and has been an illegal migrant worker for 22 years. TKI 3's mobility was recorded through bureau channels, but his travel status is currently recognized as legal. In Malaysia, his job was as a contractor, while in Indonesia, he previously worked as a farmer. The income received by TKI 3 is around 100 RM per day, and the status of the house is rented. His decision to become an illegal migrant worker in Malaysia was influenced by economic factors that encouraged him to seek better life opportunities abroad. TKI 3's plans to return to Indonesia are currently unknown, reflecting the complexity and uncertainty often associated with long-standing illegal migration. This situation also shows the challenges faced by illegal migrant workers in planning their return to life in their homeland after several years living abroad (TKI 3, 2023).

Factors Driving Indonesian Migrant Workers to Choose Illegal Migration

1. Do not have a valid visa to enter another country

The decision to become an illegal migrant worker is often taken by individuals for various complex reasons. One of the main reasons why some people choose to become illegal migrant workers is because they do not have a valid visa to enter another country. This reason can be influenced by a number of other factors, including limited visa access, urgent economic needs, promising job offers, ignorance of immigration law, and urgent decisions.

2. Someone goes abroad on a tourist visa, then decides to work there

Illegal migrant workers initially entered Malaysia with tourist visas, then chose to live and work there. The lack of job opportunities in Indonesia is one of the factors that influences the decision to stay for illegal migrant workers. Meanwhile, job opportunities in Malaysia

are very available and are not influenced by education (Suryadi, 2018). Apart from that, the wages given are greater compared to Indonesia. Individual jobs such as those of farmers and the large number of unemployed are also factors that make migrant workers decide to stay and settle in Malaysia.

The mobility of illegal migrant workers occurs through two routes, namely travel without using bureau services and through official travel agents. The travel route often chosen by illegal migrant workers is Surabaya-Batam-Johor. At the start of their arrival, they used tourist visas for the purpose of visiting family or traveling, which is a legally valid action. However, when their visa documents expire and are not renewed, their status becomes illegal. These illegal migrant workers tend not to extend their visa documents because they are influenced by difficult economic factors as well as because the extension process is quite complicated.

Illegal migrant workers in Malaysia are dominated by men from Madura. There is no official distribution of TKI or PPTKIS in Madura, so the role of PPTKIS has been replaced by illegal TKI distributors (Tekong). Tekong often persuades migrant workers to take dangerous shortcuts. There are several frauds committed, including: (1) inappropriate passports, passports used for work, fake passports, and passports used with someone else's identity; (2) work placement that is not in accordance with the work contract documents; and (3) migrant workers who leave without having the skills and language necessary for the workplace.

3. Do not extend the document when the validity period expires.

The desire to become a legal migrant worker is hampered by economic factors and difficult government services in processing documents. The high permit price is one of the reasons why many migrant workers do not extend their documents to legalize their status as legal migrant workers. Apart from that, the large number of individuals who cheat or trick illegal migrant workers makes them feel afraid and traumatized about extending their documents, which ultimately causes more migrant workers to choose to remain illegal. Apart from these problems, their status as illegal migrant workers also makes it difficult for them to own their own house, so they tend to choose to rent a house as their place of protection.

Factors Driving Illegal Migrant Workers to Choose to Migrate to Malaysia

1. Availability of employment opportunities

The job opportunity factor is one of the factors that is very influential in the decision of migrant workers to migrate to Malaysia. The lack of job opportunities in their home

countries means that many workers of productive age do not have jobs in their home countries, so they prefer to migrate to other countries, such as Malaysia, to find work (Loe et al., 2022). This employment opportunity factor is measured by the work that migrant workers do before going to Malaysia. The migrant workers do not have jobs in their home countries, as shown in the following interviews:

"Before I became a migrant worker in Malaysia, I was just unemployed in Indonesia." (TKI 2, 2023)

This is in line with the results of the interview, as follows:

"Because in Indonesia there is a lack of work; there was no work before, but now you know." (TKI 3, 2023)

Based on this information, it can be seen that job opportunities in Indonesia are very small. Therefore, job opportunities in Indonesia are still one of the government's problems, which causes a large number of unemployed people in Indonesia to be productive.

2. Wage level

Just as the job opportunities offered are quite abundant, the wages offered are also higher than wages in Indonesia (Yesika Marsel et al., 2022). The difference in wages between Indonesia and Malaysia is also one of the factors that makes workers choose to work in Malaysia. The greater difference in wage levels in the destination country compared to the country of origin is the reason why migrant workers migrate. This wage level factor is measured from the wages earned in a month or per day, as per the interview results as follows:

"The first time I worked, the income was 1200 RM; the estimate is 40 RM for one day, and then on Sundays, sometimes I also work if I'm healthy. That's because if I divide one month's leave, a month's leave is divided into two alternate days of leave. If I take leave this week, next week I have to work." (TKI 1, 2023)

This is in line with the results of the interview, as follows:

"If you participate, it's low; if you exchange it, it's double. If you get one hundred ringgit here, one hundred ringgit a day, if you live in your village, it's more than 300 thousand a day. Kire-kire is like that—one hundred ringgit if the rupiah is more than 300 thousand." (TKI 3, 2023)

Based on the description of this information, it can be seen that the wages offered in Malaysia depend on the status of the worker. If the worker is a legal TKI, then the wage offered is around 1500 RM or more, but if the TKI is an illegal TKI, then the wage offered

is around 1200 RM. If converted into rupiah, the income of these migrant workers is around 3 million–6 million a month. This difference in wage levels is what ultimately attracts workers of productive age to work in Malaysia.

3. Family

The existence of the family is a factor that influences the decision of migrant workers to migrate to Malaysia. The presence of parents or relatives residing in the destination country is a fairly strong pull factor due to social relations (Nadia et al., 2022) , as shown in the following interview results:

"Initially, I was a traveler because my family was in Malaysia; some were permanent residents, like my aunt and my grandfather; my grandmother was a permanent resident." (TKI 1, 2023)

This is in line with the results of the interview, as follows:

"Because most people from my village, especially my parents, used to migrate to Malaysia, so I could only go with my parents, who took care of it." (TKI 2, 2023)

Based on this description of information, it can be seen that the reason why migrant workers migrate to Malaysia is because of the presence of their families who have settled in Malaysia. This encourages migrant workers to decide to stay in Malaysia. This encouragement often comes from the surrounding environment, which invites them to take steps to become migrant workers. Therefore, some TKI choose to become TKI through the recommended route, but there are also those who choose to become TKI illegally. Invitations from the surrounding environment, which are usually accompanied by offers of certain benefits, are a motivating factor for workers who are productive but have difficulty finding work in Indonesia. As a result, they choose to work abroad even though their abilities and education may be limited. Finally, many workers choose to leave via illegal routes because they face limited costs and requirements needed to become TKI, especially when there is no Private Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PPTKIS) available in their area.

An Analysis of Survival Strategies for Illegal Migrant Workers in Malaysia

The survival strategy theory used in analyzing the survival strategy of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia is based on four indicators: economic survival strategy, social survival

strategy, legal survival strategy, and political survival strategy. The following is a breakdown of these four aspects:

1. Economic survival strategy

The economic survival strategy used by illegal migrant workers in Malaysia is measured by several indicators, namely frugality, hoarding, selling assets, diversification, looking for opportunities, moving, residence, and remittances to Indonesia.

a. Save money

Saving money is a way to reduce expenses in daily life, both in primary and secondary aspects. Each illegal migrant worker has a different approach to living a frugal lifestyle. Some of them try to reduce activities outside the home or stay at home more, while others try to control spending by only buying things as needed. Apart from that, they also try to reduce education costs by looking for schools that are located close to where they live.

b. Hoard

Hoarding is a way to store, maintain, collect, and protect valuable items owned by migrant workers as reserves to face economic emergencies. The level of hoarding can be measured by the amount of assets owned by illegal migrant workers, which varies from one individual to another. Illegal migrant workers hoard assets by owning assets such as jewelry or even building houses in their home countries. The goal is to prepare for unexpected situations so that they can use these assets in an emergency by selling or pawning them. However, it should be noted that not all illegal migrant workers understand asset ownership and how to use them. Some of them may not have assets that can be used in emergency situations due to a lack of knowledge about asset ownership or how to manage them.

c. Selling assets

Selling assets is an action by migrant workers to let go of the valuables they have in order to overcome emergency situations. Illegal migrant workers use their assets to overcome deficiencies in meeting their daily needs, such as shopping, document renewals, and so on.

d. Diversified variety

Diversification variation is an effort to find alternatives to meet daily needs. This level of diversification can be measured based on the various types of work carried out by illegal migrant workers to meet their needs. Illegal migrant workers involve themselves in various jobs, such as taking overtime work or even working multiple jobs to help improve their economic situation.

e. looking for opportunities

Looking for opportunities is a way to take advantage of existing opportunities to meet needs. Illegal migrant workers look for opportunities by converting empty rooms, which are then rented out to fellow migrant workers at a certain price, so that they can help reduce their house rental costs. This action was taken to control expenses related to paying house rent for illegal migrant workers.

f. Move

The movement carried out by illegal migrant workers involves changing their place of residence. This action is taken to avoid migration operations, which are often carried out suddenly. This moving strategy is a form of migration behavior carried out by illegal migrant workers, where they move from one location to another with a specific purpose.

g. Residence

Residence is a form of protection and determination for a migrant worker in the destination country. The residential status of migrant workers is measured based on the condition of the house, which they often rent at a certain price, along with the facilities provided. Illegal migrant workers in Malaysia, for example, generally live by renting houses available there. This is caused by several factors, including very high land and house prices if purchased in Malaysia, inadequate documentation, and potential difficulties in the migration process if they own a house with ownership status.

h. Remittance

Remittances are a way for migrant workers to send money to their families in Indonesia. The amount of this remittance is measured based on the amount of money they send to their families in one month. The amount of remittances usually made by illegal migrant workers is around 1 million rupiah per month or even more, adjusted to the needs of families in Indonesia.

2. Social survival strategy

The social survival strategy is a way of social survival carried out by illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. Social is a very important survival strategy in the social life of migrant workers in the destination country (Niko, 2020). Where the social life of illegal migrant workers determines the survival of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia, The social survival strategy used by illegal migrant workers in Malaysia is measured based on several indicators, namely respecting others, being patient, participating in social activities, family ties, survival, and protecting oneself (Rini, 2021).

a. Respect for others

Respecting other people is a form of caring for others, yourself, and the environment. In an effort to create a comfortable and friendly environment to live in, the strategy of respecting other people plays an important role. Measuring respect for other people is carried out through the environmental response to the presence of illegal migrant workers in the surroundings. One way that illegal migrant workers use to respect other people is by showing a friendly attitude and good behavior towards their neighbors and the surrounding environment. However, it is not uncommon for there to be negative views towards illegal migrant workers and immigrants in Malaysia. Therefore, it is important to create a safe environment by implementing the values of respect for others as a survival strategy that can contribute to creating a safe and comfortable environment for all.

b. Be patient

The strategy of being patient is a key aspect of surviving various conditions and environments that may not always be ideal. Patience is a manifestation of the ability to restrain oneself, overcome, or accept events that occur in life. In the context of illegal migrant workers, maintaining calm and being patient in various situations is very important so that they do not get carried away by emotions when they are in an environment that may not be conducive. Measuring the level of patience can be seen in the way migrant workers deal with problems that arise in their surrounding environment. One form of patience they show is by maintaining good behavior and a friendly attitude towards neighbors or the surrounding environment, even if there are people who don't like their presence. Efforts to avoid conflict and maintain emotional control are the keys to implementing this patient attitude, so that it can help create a more comfortable and harmonious environment.

c. Participate in social activities

Active participation in social activities is an important step to building good relationships with neighbors and strengthening the sense of kinship between fellow humans. Through various activities such as mutual cooperation, open houses, and sharing meals with neighbors, illegal migrant workers participate in social activities taking place in their environment. Not only that, but this participation also plays a role in efforts to create a safe environment for them to live in. By actively participating in social activities like this, illegal migrant workers can build closeness with neighbors and local residents, thereby creating a more harmonious and conducive environment for all parties.

d. Family ties

Maintaining family ties aims to maintain strong relationships between families in Indonesia and illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. By maintaining close communication with their families in Indonesia, they can build strong family ties. Maintaining family ties is very important for illegal migrant workers because family is often the main motivation for them to consider returning to Indonesia. Communication conditions between migrant workers and their families in Indonesia are very good, and these relationships continue to be good, allowing them to stay connected and support each other.

e. Survive

Survival is a way for migrant workers to maintain their survival in a new environment, especially to protect themselves from migration operations or raids that often occur. This survival evaluation can be done by paying attention to how migrant workers protect themselves from potential migration operations or raids. One of the survival strategies commonly used by migrant workers is to stay indoors or reduce outdoor activities. If they need to leave the house, for example, to travel, TKI will carefully plan their travel route using internet services or Google Maps to ensure their safety.

f. Protecting yourself

Self-protection is an effort to save oneself from bad events or potential dangers. This self-protection can be measured by the strategies used by migrant workers to protect themselves from migration operations that often occur in their environment. Illegal migrant workers often use several methods to protect themselves in these situations. One of the strategies they employ is to flee into the forest, look for shelter, and even sleep there. They will remain hidden in the forest until the situation becomes safe or until morning arrives, then they will return to their homes. Apart from that, there are also several migrant workers who seek protection by hiding in neighbors' houses to ensure their safety.

3. Legal survival strategy

Legal survival strategies are an important key to dealing with the regulations imposed by the government on illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. The law is a strategic basis for regulating and controlling migrant workers in Malaysia. This legal survival strategy can be carried out by considering indicators such as government policy towards illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. The legal provisions implemented by the government have a significant impact on the survival of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. This legal policy

is designed to overcome various problems faced by migrant workers, including the problem of document completeness. Therefore, legal protection for illegal migrant workers is their main focus, and government policy plays a central role in their survival strategy.

Government policy has a significant impact on the survival of migrant workers in Malaysia, and migrant workers view it as the main focus in assessing the protection they receive. Government policies are designed to address specific problems and have received official government approval. The government's response to problems arising from illegal migrant workers in Malaysia is an aspect that they really pay attention to.

The Indonesian government, together with the Malaysian government, has attempted to make the document creation process easier for migrant workers. Unfortunately, the existence of irresponsible individuals has made the document creation process difficult. One of the problems that arises is that there are fraudulent acts carried out by these individuals, so that many migrant workers have registered and paid to make permits, but their permits have never been processed.

In addition, the high cost of producing documents is also an obstacle for many migrant workers, who often cannot afford to renew their documents. Therefore, because of the problems caused by these irresponsible individuals, many illegal migrant workers are reluctant to extend their documents for fear of becoming victims of fraud.

4. Political survival strategy

Political survival strategies are an important key for illegal migrant workers in Malaysia because politics has a significant role in helping them achieve their goals. Evaluation of this political survival strategy can be carried out by considering indicators such as the services provided by the government to migrant workers, including illegal migrant workers. The political policies implemented by the government have a major impact on the lives of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. Therefore, the political policies designed must have a significant positive impact on migrant workers in Malaysia. Government services, therefore, are one of the main focuses of attention for illegal migrant workers in Malaysia, because this can help them achieve their goals (Zulfikar, 2019).

Government service strategies have a significant impact on the status of migrant workers in Malaysia. The quality of government services plays an important role in determining the number of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. Poor government services can trigger an increase in the number of illegal migrant workers, while good services can reduce this problem by reducing the number of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia.

Therefore, the government's response to the problem of illegal migrant workers is a major concern in assessing the quality of government services. The various activities organized by the government for the general public reflect the types of services provided to migrant workers, including services related to document creation for migrant workers in Malaysia. The process of producing documents for illegal migrant workers is often hampered by various factors, which ultimately encourage some of them to choose illegal status or be forced to become illegal. This happens for a number of reasons, including the high costs required to obtain a permit, inequalities in services, long and complicated document creation processes, slow services, inefficient government response to the needs of migrant workers, fraudulent acts committed by unscrupulous individuals, irresponsibility, as well as the high level of uncertainty that exists in the process of providing documents by the government to migrant workers.

Conclusion

The survival of illegal migrant workers to Malaysia continues to increase every year, becoming an unresolved problem for the Indonesian government. In the analysis of the Malaysian region as the destination for illegal Indonesian migrant workers going to Malaysia, the narrative analysis is about the survival strategy of illegal migrant workers going to Malaysia. These two analyses illustrate that the Indonesian government must make policies that favor illegal migrant workers to reduce illegal workers, which of course will be detrimental. Characteristics of TKI who have illegal status start their journey with a tourist visa and do not extend the document due date. The decision by illegal migrant workers to stay and live in Malaysia is due to the availability of job opportunities, wage levels, and family or relatives.

The survival strategies used by illegal migrant workers in Malaysia are divided into four categories: economic survival strategies, social survival strategies, legal survival strategies, and political survival strategies. First, the economic survival strategy of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia is saving, hoarding, selling assets, diversifying, looking for opportunities, moving, housing, and remittances. Second, the social survival strategy of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia is to respect other people, be patient, participate in social activities and family ties, survive, and protect themselves. Third, the legal survival strategy is measured based on government policy indicators towards illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. The government's policy in dealing with the problem of illegal migrant workers is good by giving migrant workers the opportunity to extend their permits. However, the presence of

irresponsible individuals has made the document creation process difficult. Fourth, the political survival strategy is measured based on indicators of government services for illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. Government services in processing permit extensions or document extensions for migrant workers move slowly, are not efficient, the process is complicated, services are not equalized, and the costs are expensive.

The contribution of this research is to better understand the survival of illegal Indonesian workers by avoiding immigration operations or raids in Malaysia, as well as the Indonesian government's efforts to facilitate access and administration for TKI who want to work abroad. This can be used as a study in the future, when many Indonesian citizens turn to becoming illegal immigrants to meet their needs.

This research only explores the characteristics of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia, the factors driving migrant workers to choose illegal migration, as well as the survival strategies of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia. So, it is recommended that future researchers be able to use a wider range of informants, such as involving key stakeholders, including governments, companies, and communities in both countries. Apart from that, adding research variables such as those related to gender factors, psychological well-being, migration policies, legal protection, etc. can fill the gaps in this research.

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