

Enhancing Occupational Health and Safety Education for Indonesian Migrant Workers

Dian Utama Pratiwi Putri^{1*}, Rahmaya Nova Handayani², Ratu Fenny Muldiani³, Shinta Widiastuty Anggerainy⁴, Dewi Peti Virgianti⁵, Meri⁵, Muhammad Minan Chusni⁶, Mursyidi⁷

¹Prodi Kesehatan Masyarakat Fakultas Kesehatan Universitas Mitra Indonesia
Jl.cempedak no.31/45 AD Gedong Meneng Rajabasa Bandar Lampung, Lampung, 40115 - Indonesia

²Universitas Harapan Bangsa, Jawa Tengah - Indonesia

³Politeknik Negeri Bandung, Jawa Barat - Indonesia

⁴Poltekkes Kemenkes Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat - Indonesia

⁵Universitas Bakti Tunas Husada, Jawa Barat - Indonesia

⁶UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, Jawa Barat - Indonesia

⁷IAI Al Aziziyah Samalanga, Aceh – Indonesia

E-mail: dian@umitra.ac.id

Article history:

Received: October 2023

Revised: October 2023

Accepted: October 2023

ABSTRACT This community engagement initiative aimed to address the occupational health and safety challenges faced by Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) under the care of KBRI Kuala Lumpur. Conducted from October to December 2023, the program, organized collaboratively by LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and 115 universities, adopted a hybrid model involving both in-person and virtual sessions. The tailored curriculum, developed through collaborative planning, focused on hazard identification, emergency response, and preventive measures, with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity. Results indicate a high level of participation, demonstrating the effectiveness of the hybrid model in reaching diverse PMI populations. Pre-and post-assessment evaluations revealed significant knowledge improvement, particularly in key areas of occupational health and safety. Participant feedback highlighted a sense of empowerment, indicating the initiative's success in fostering awareness and agency among PMI. The program's collaborative approach, cultural sensitivity, and continuous monitoring mechanisms contributed to its overall impact.

Keywords: *Indonesian Migrant Workers, Occupational Health and Safety, Community Engagement, Hybrid Model, Empowerment.*

INTRODUCTION

The increasing phenomenon of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) facing challenges abroad, particularly in Kuala Lumpur, underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions. As documented in the literature, migrant workers are often exposed to precarious working conditions, exploitation, and a lack of awareness regarding occupational health and safety practices (Smith et al., 2019). The challenges faced by PMI have been further exacerbated by various cases of exploitation and maltreatment, creating a pressing need for comprehensive programs that address their unique circumstances.

The issues faced by PMI are not isolated incidents but reflect systemic challenges within the global labor migration framework. The vulnerability of migrant workers has been a recurrent

concern in scholarly discourse, emphasizing the need for interventions that go beyond immediate problem-solving to address the root causes of their difficulties (Rahman, 2021). The situation is particularly pronounced in Kuala Lumpur, where Indonesian migrant workers often find themselves in precarious working environments, exposing them to various health and safety risks.

Existing literature reveals a critical gap in comprehensive health and safety education programs tailored specifically for Indonesian migrant workers. The study by Smith et al. (2019) highlights the vulnerability of PMI to occupational hazards and the dire consequences of inadequate safety measures. Rahman's (2021) review of challenges faced by Bangladeshi migrant workers resonates with the experiences of Indonesian workers, emphasizing the need for a concerted effort to address the multifaceted issues.

Furthermore, the International Labour Organization's (ILO) guidelines on fair recruitment (ILO, 2020) stress the importance of creating conditions that prioritize the safety and well-being of migrant workers. This underscores the necessity for collaborative efforts involving governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions to address the unique challenges faced by PMI. The literature thus provides a comprehensive backdrop against which the current initiative, aimed at enhancing the health and safety education for PMI in Kuala Lumpur, gains significance.

The initiative to provide health and safety education to problematic PMI under the care of KBRI Kuala Lumpur is pivotal for several reasons. Firstly, it addresses the immediate and tangible issues faced by PMI by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate their work environments safely. Secondly, it contributes to the broader discourse on migrant worker well-being by presenting a model for community engagement that is both collaborative and sustainable.

The hybrid nature of the program, incorporating both physical and virtual elements, ensures accessibility for a diverse group of PMI. By leveraging the expertise of LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and the extensive network of universities in Indonesia and Malaysia, this initiative aims not only to educate but also to empower PMI to advocate for their rights and well-being.

In conclusion, this initiative is not just a response to the immediate challenges faced by PMI but a proactive step towards creating a lasting impact on their lives. By addressing the unique circumstances of Indonesian migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur, the program aims to contribute to a broader global conversation on ensuring the rights, safety, and well-being of migrant workers.

2. METHOD

The community engagement initiative employed a pragmatic and participatory approach to enhance health and safety education for problematic Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in Kuala Lumpur. The methodology encompassed a collaborative planning phase, where key stakeholders, including LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and representatives from 115 universities, contributed to the development of a tailored curriculum.

Utilizing a hybrid delivery model, the program combined in-person sessions at the Aula Hasanuddin KBRI Kuala Lumpur with virtual modules accessible to PMI across different locations. Expert facilitators, selected for their proficiency in occupational health and safety, delivered the curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. Continuous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, such as surveys and focus group discussions, allowed for real-time adjustments to enhance the program's impact. This methodology aimed to address the specific challenges faced by PMI, promoting inclusivity and adaptability throughout the initiative.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The community engagement initiative, spanning October to December 2023, yielded noteworthy outcomes in terms of participation, knowledge acquisition, and overall impact on Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) in Kuala Lumpur.

3.1 Participation Rates:

The program witnessed a high level of participation from PMI, both in the physical sessions held at Aula Hasanuddin KBRI Kuala Lumpur and the virtual modules accessible across regions. The hybrid delivery model effectively accommodated the diverse locations of PMI, with participants from various sectors of employment, including domestic work, construction, and manufacturing.

3.2 Knowledge Acquisition:

Pre-and post-assessment evaluations revealed a significant improvement in participants' understanding of occupational health and safety practices. Key areas such as hazard identification, emergency response, and preventive measures demonstrated substantial knowledge enhancement. The tailored curriculum, combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications, contributed to the effectiveness of the education program.

3.3 Participant Engagement:

Feedback from PMI indicated a high level of engagement and receptivity to the program. Virtual discussion forums facilitated knowledge-sharing among participants, fostering a sense of

community and solidarity. The inclusion of cultural sensitivity in the curriculum was particularly appreciated, enhancing the relatability of the material to the diverse backgrounds of PMI.

The results highlight the program's success in enhancing PMI's awareness of occupational hazards. Discussions on workplace safety, identification of potential risks, and strategies for mitigating hazards proved effective. The curriculum's practical approach equipped participants with the skills to apply safety measures in their specific work environments. This is particularly crucial for PMI, given the diverse sectors in which they are employed and the range of occupational risks associated with each sector.

The initiative's emphasis on education emerged as a powerful tool for empowering PMI. By equipping them with knowledge on their rights, emergency response protocols, and preventive measures, the program aimed to foster a sense of agency among participants. This empowerment is fundamental in addressing the vulnerabilities often associated with migrant workers, allowing them to advocate for their well-being and contribute to creating safer working environments.

The hybrid delivery model proved effective in reaching a wide audience of PMI. The combination of in-person sessions and virtual modules allowed flexibility in participation, overcoming geographical barriers and ensuring accessibility. This adaptability is particularly relevant in the context of the ongoing global pandemic, demonstrating the initiative's responsiveness to external challenges.

The collaborative planning involving LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and representatives from 115 universities played a pivotal role in the initiative's success. The diverse expertise contributed to a well-rounded curriculum, addressing the unique challenges faced by PMI. The collaborative model not only ensured a comprehensive approach but also fostered a sense of collective responsibility toward the well-being of Indonesian migrant workers.

The inclusion of cultural sensitivity in the curriculum emerged as a key factor in the program's success. Recognizing the diverse backgrounds and experiences of PMI, the material was tailored to resonate with their cultural context. This approach not only enhanced the relatability of the content but also contributed to creating an inclusive learning environment.

The continuous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms allowed for real-time adjustments, ensuring the program's ongoing relevance and effectiveness. Feedback from PMI provided valuable insights, allowing for the refinement of content and delivery methods. This iterative approach contributed to the initiative's adaptability and responsiveness to the evolving needs of participants.

The success of this community engagement initiative carries significant implications for future endeavors aimed at enhancing the well-being of Indonesian migrant workers. The collaborative and hybrid model can serve as a blueprint for similar programs, emphasizing the

importance of involving various stakeholders and utilizing flexible delivery methods. The emphasis on continuous monitoring and cultural sensitivity should be integral components of future initiatives targeting migrant worker communities.

While the initiative demonstrated substantial success, there are inherent limitations. The virtual sessions, while essential for accessibility, may not fully replicate the immersive learning experience of in-person training. Future programs could explore innovative ways to enhance virtual engagement. Additionally, the long-term impact of the initiative warrants further investigation, requiring follow-up assessments to gauge the sustained application of acquired knowledge among PMI.



Figure 1. Documentation of Community Service Activities

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the results and discussions underscore the positive impact of the community engagement initiative on Indonesian Migrant Workers in Kuala Lumpur. By addressing occupational hazards, empowering through knowledge, employing a hybrid delivery model, fostering a collaborative approach, prioritizing cultural sensitivity, and incorporating continuous monitoring, the program has laid the foundation for sustainable efforts to enhance the well-being of PMI. The success of this initiative serves as a testament to the efficacy of holistic and participatory approaches in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by migrant workers. Moving forward, the lessons learned from this initiative should inform and inspire future endeavors aimed at promoting the rights, safety, and overall well-being of Indonesian migrant workers globally.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We express our deepest gratitude to LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, PPI UPSI, and all stakeholders for their invaluable contributions in making this community engagement initiative a success.

REFERENCES

- Garrison, D. R., & Vaughan, N. D. (2018). Blended learning in higher education: Framework, principles, and guidelines. John Wiley & Sons.
- International Labour Organization (ILO). (2020). General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment.
- Rahman, M. H. (2021). Challenges faced by Bangladeshi migrant workers: A review. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Analysis*, 8(1), 48-52.
- Smith, A. D., et al. (2019). Occupational health and safety of migrant workers: An Australian perspective. *Safety and Health at Work*, 10(3), 257-262.