

Empowering Indonesian Migrant Workers: Successful Strategies Post-Employment Abroad

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ABSTRACT This initiative community services aimed are empowering troubled Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) post-employment. The initiative, spanning one semester from October to December 2023, addressed the multifaceted challenges faced by PMIs under the care of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Results indicate a significant improvement in the knowledge, skills, and well-being of PMIs post-employment. Workshops, counselling sessions, and vocational training were effective in addressing legal issues, enhancing mental health awareness, and improving social reintegration. Collaborative efforts between LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and 115 universities played a crucial role in the initiative's success. Challenges encountered included limited resources and the diverse needs of PMIs, necessitating continuous adaptation. The initiative showcased its uniqueness by combining various interventions, differentiating it from existing programs in the literature. While the study offers valuable insights, it is not without limitations. In conclusion, this initiative provides a comprehensive action for empowering troubled PMIs, emphasizing collaboration, adaptability, and multifaceted interventions. The findings contribute to the broader discourse on migrant worker well-being, emphasizing the need for sustained efforts and collaboration between governmental, non-governmental, and educational entities.

Keywords: *Indonesian Migrant Workers, Empowerment, Post-Employment Challenges, Collaborative Intervention, Migrant Worker Well-Being.*

INTRODUCTION

The initiative focuses on PMIs under the care of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, where numerous cases of maltreatment, exploitation, and legal disputes have been reported. According to a study Hasan et al. (2021), PMIs often encounter challenges related to legal rights, mental health, and social reintegration upon returning to Indonesia. Recognizing the urgency of addressing these issues, LSM SHARING initiated a collaborative effort to empower PMIs facing difficulties overseas.

The significance of this initiative lies in its targeted approach to address the pressing issues faced by PMIs post-employment. By providing a platform for troubled PMIs to access resources, support, and guidance, the initiative aims to empower them with the necessary skills and knowledge

to navigate the challenges associated with working abroad. The collaborative nature of the program, involving LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and 115 universities, reflects a comprehensive and concerted effort to contribute to the well-being of PMI

Numerous academic studies underscore the importance of addressing the challenges faced by PMIs. For instance, a comprehensive review by Murphy (2013). highlighted the need for targeted interventions to improve the mental health and overall well-being of migrant workers. Additionally, studies by Hasan et al. (2021), emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts involving government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions to provide holistic support for PMIs.

Drawing from the insights of these studies, the initiative outlined in this paper aligns with the broader academic discourse on the well-being and empowerment of migrant workers. By addressing the specific needs of troubled PMIs, the initiative contributes to the growing body of knowledge aimed at improving the conditions and outcomes for this vulnerable demographic. In summary, this paper presents an initiative aimed at empowering troubled PMIs post-employment, with a focus on those under the care of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

2. METHOD

The methodology employed for this initiative integrated both qualitative and quantitative approaches to comprehensively address the challenges faced by troubled Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) post-employment. A literature review informed the development of a structured questionnaire and interview guides. Participants, including troubled PMIs, embassy officials, and relevant stakeholders, were engaged during a hybrid event conducted over one semester from October to December 2023. The collaborative nature of the initiative involved the coordination and cooperation of LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and 115 universities, providing a holistic and multifaceted approach to empower PMIs. This mixed-methods approach facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and the impact of the strategies implemented during the initiative.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Demographic Overview of Participants

The initiative engaged a diverse group of participants, including troubled PMIs, embassy officials, and stakeholders. A demographic analysis revealed that the majority of PMIs were in the age group of 20 to 50, with varying levels of education and professional backgrounds. Embassy

officials and stakeholders represented a cross-section of expertise, contributing to the richness and diversity of the initiative.

2. Identification of Key Challenges Faced by PMIs

Through interviews and surveys, the initiative identified several key challenges faced by troubled PMIs post-employment. These challenges included but were not limited to legal issues, mental health concerns, difficulties in social reintegration, and inadequate access to support services. These findings align with existing literature on the vulnerabilities of migrant workers.

3. Strategies Employed During the Initiative

To address the identified challenges, a series of strategies were implemented, including workshops, counselling sessions, and vocational training. Workshops covered topics such as legal rights, mental health awareness, and skill development. counselling sessions provided a safe space for PMIs to express their concerns, while vocational training aimed to enhance their employability upon return to Indonesia.

4. Impact and Effectiveness of Strategies

The quantitative data revealed a significant improvement in the knowledge and well-being of PMIs who participated in the initiative. Pre-and post-event surveys indicated an increase in legal awareness, mental health literacy, and confidence in social integration. Statistical analysis supported these findings, showing a statistically significant improvement in key outcome measures. The qualitative data, obtained through in-depth interviews, offered valuable insights into the personal experiences and perceptions of the participants. Many PMIs expressed gratitude for the initiative, highlighting the positive impact on their self-esteem, emotional well-being, and readiness to face the challenges post-employment.

5. Collaborative Efforts and Stakeholder Involvement

The success of the initiative can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of LSM SHARING, the Indonesian Embassy, PPI UPSI, and 115 universities. Stakeholders played a crucial role in providing expertise, resources, and networking opportunities. The engagement of embassy officials ensured a direct link to the challenges faced by troubled PMIs, facilitating a targeted and impactful intervention.

6. Challenges Faced During the Initiative

Despite the overall success, the initiative encountered certain challenges. Limited resources, logistical constraints, and the diverse needs of PMIs posed difficulties in tailoring the intervention to suit every participant's situation. Continuous adaptation and flexibility were essential to address these challenges effectively.

7. Sustainability and Future Considerations

The sustainability of the initiative hinges on on-going support systems and collaboration. Recommendations include the establishment of a post-event support network, awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy. Future initiatives should consider expanding collaboration to involve more stakeholders, ensuring a broader impact and sustainability.



Figure 1. documentation of Activities Implementation

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the initiative to empower troubled PMIs post-employment has proven effective in addressing the identified challenges. The combination of quantitative and qualitative methods provided a comprehensive understanding of the impact of the strategies employed. Collaborative efforts and stakeholder involvement played a pivotal role in the success of the

program. Challenges encountered during the initiative underscore the need for continuous adaptation and flexibility in addressing the diverse needs of PMIs. The findings contribute to the growing body of knowledge on interventions to empower and support migrant workers, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive, collaborative, and sustained efforts. This initiative not only enhances the understanding of the challenges faced by PMIs but also serves as a model for future interventions aimed at improving the well-being and successful reintegration of migrant workers globally.

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