

# **THE SUCCESS FACTORS OF FAMILY-BASED SOCIAL REHABILITATION: A CASE STUDY ON CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN INDRAMAYU REGENCY**

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## ***Abstract***

Family-based social rehabilitation of children is one of the flagship programs of the Indonesian government at this time, shifting institution-based social rehabilitation for children who need support and protection. Based on the understanding that the best child is in family care. The purpose of this study was to determine the factors that determine the success of family-based children's social rehabilitation, particularly case studies of children of Indonesian migrant workers who are separated from the care of their biological parents. Besides, it is also to determine the characteristics of migrant workers' children, what are the characteristics of the extended family providing care, and how the family-based social rehabilitation process for children has been carried out. This study used a qualitative approach and descriptive method, the type of research was a case study on the children of Indramayu migrant workers who came from Taiwan with 6 informants who were determined using a purposive sample technique. The results showed that all children were separated from maternal care at an early age, the extended family who provided care were grandparents, aunts, and aunts. The social rehabilitation process is carried out by improving the functioning of the family in meeting children's basic needs and foster care. The factors that influence the success of social rehabilitation are family acceptance, the attachment built by substitute figures, continuous communication between the child and the mother, the presence of family assistants who act as facilitators of the social rehabilitation process, and the support of the closest environment.

## ***Keywords:***

Social Rehabilitation, Children, Family, Migrant Worker, Social Worker with Family

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## **Abstrak**

Rehabilitasi sosial anak berbasis keluarga menjadi salah satu unggulan program pemerintah Indonesia saat ini, menggeser rehabilitasi sosial berbasis lembaga bagi anak-anak yang membutuhkan dukungan dan perlindungan. Didasari pemahaman bahwa anak terbaik berada dalam pengasuhan keluarga. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor yang menentukan keberhasilan rehabilitasi sosial anak berbasis keluarga, khususnya studi kasus pada anak-anak pekerja migran Indonesia yang terpisah dari pengasuhan orang tua kandungnya. Selain itu, juga untuk mengetahui karakteristik anak pekerja migran, bagaimana karakteristik keluarga besar yang memberikan pengasuhan serta bagaimana proses rehabilitasi sosial anak berbasis keluarga yang telah dilakukan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan metode deskriptif, jenis penelitian studi kasus pada anak pekerja

migran Indramayu yang berasal dari Taiwan dengan 6 orang informan yang ditentukan menggunakan teknik *purposive sample*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa seluruh anak terpisah dari pengasuhan ibu pada usia dini, keluarga besar yang memberikan pengasuhan adalah nenek kakek dan bibi serta paman. Proses rehabilitasi sosial dilakukan dengan meningkatkan keberfungsian keluarga dalam pemenuhan kebutuhan dasar anak dan perawatan pengasuhan. Faktor-faktor yang berpengaruh terhadap keberhasilan rehabilitasi sosial adalah penerimaan keluarga, kelekatan yang dibangun oleh *figure* pengganti, komunikasi yang terus dibangun antara anak dan ibu, adanya tenaga pendamping keluarga yang berperan menjadi fasilitator proses rehabilitasi sosial, serta adanya dukungan lingkungan terdekat.

### **Kata Kunci:**

rehabilitasi sosial, anak pekerja migran, keluarga, pekerja sosial dengan keluarga

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The child is in the care of the nuclear family, namely the biological parents who provide complete fulfillment of the child's needs. However, not all children are fortunate to be cared for by their biological parents and in a complete family, data in Indonesia shows that childcare is also in extended families, family relatives, foster families, adopted families, and even in Child Welfare Institutions (Child Welfare Institutions) (LKSA). According to the Indonesian Minister of Social Affairs, in 2016, there were 8,200 LKSAs in Indonesia (detiknews.com, 2016).

Meanwhile, based on Susenas data, in 2011 there were 3,115,777 neglected children and 1,224,168 neglected toddlers in Indonesia (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2012). The high number of LKSAs and the number of neglected children and babies in Indonesia indicate that many children are separated from the care of their parents in Indonesia. Realizing this, the Indonesian Government in 2009 began to emphasize the shift in the paradigm of childcare in Indonesia for children who need special protection from Institutional based care to family-based care. This policy is of course based on various theoretical and empirical

studies of the results of research, that the best child care is in family care and it is the child's right to get care in the family.

Novita & Budiman (2015) state that parenting by parents will be able to increase children's creativity. Furthermore, Sutiana, et al. (2018) said that the pattern of care provided by the family affects the development of the child. Therefore, family-based care is the main choice in childcare. Besides, children's social rehabilitation programs also emphasize the perspective of family-based care. Based on this, the research aimed to determine 1) the factors that determine the success of family-based social rehabilitation of children, especially the children of Indonesian migrant workers who are separated from the care of their biological parents and are in the care of extended families; 2) What are the characteristics of the children of migrant workers; 3) what are the characteristics of the extended family, and 4) what is the family-based social rehabilitation process for children.

The results of this research are important because family-based children's social rehabilitation is the current flagship program of the Indonesian government, so an in-depth study is needed to improve or perfect this family-based care program. On

the other hand, a review of family-based care is one of the strong cultures in Indonesia, that the extended family will be the main choice when children cannot be directly cared for by their parents. This condition also happens to the children of migrant workers in Indramayu. The high level of migrant workers in Indramayu includes many mothers or wives who choose to work abroad as migrant workers. So that many children are forced to separate from their mothers and fathers, because not a few divorce when the mother becomes a migrant worker abroad or because of a divorce that causes the mother to become a migrant worker abroad to support their children's lives.

Migrant workers in this research are Indonesian migrant workers who work for individual users/households, as household assistants. In Law Number 18 of 2017 concerning the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers, it is emphasized that Indonesian Migrant Workers are every Indonesian citizen who will, is, or has done work with wages outside the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. The existence of migrant workers, who are generally mothers, makes them unable to directly care for their children because they work abroad. Sutiana, et al. (2018), in their research on parenting styles for migrant worker families, stated that as a result of working mothers becoming migrant workers, more children are cared for by fathers and grandmothers. Also, the role of the father is so dominant that he often applies authoritarian parenting in raising his child. To overcome this, a children's social rehabilitation program is needed.

The children's social rehabilitation program is one of the programs aimed at Indonesian children who experience

various problems so that their needs are not met, such as neglect, victims of violence, mistreatment, children dealing with the law. For children of migrant workers, social rehabilitation includes a broad meaning, namely the fulfillment of children's rights and children's needs that enable children to grow and develop optimally. Social rehabilitation in children can never be separated from social rehabilitation for their families because families that can function socially will be able to carry out care and fulfillment of children's needs properly. Social rehabilitation is used to enable socially isolated individuals to participate in society by strengthening social interactions and increasing their functional capacity. (Kokko et.al, 2020).

The children of Indonesian migrant workers can be one of the targets of children's social rehabilitation programs, because of the problem of neglect, both in meeting basic needs for civil rights, education, health, and psychological needs of children such as affection and stable care. In this research the children of migrant workers are separated from their parents, the mother works abroad and the father does not provide care to the child.

Family-based social rehabilitation is carried out by the family as the main actor assisted by child assistants or child social workers of the Ministry of Social Affairs. This program will be successful if it is seen from the program indicators, namely the number of families that can meet the needs of their children well, the family can provide the best care for their children. "It is incumbent on the state to make sure that the environment meets the child's care and safety needs" (Connolly & Morris, 2012). The government needs to ensure the condition of children because it

is not uncommon to find cases that extended families that do not have adequate capacity to provide child care. Referring to the family-based continuum of care is the care with a family base that extends from the nuclear family, extended family, relative family, foster family, and adopted family. Family-based social rehabilitation is based on the fact that the family is the main and best place for children's growth and development. The family provides children with social status, warmth, protection, and fulfillment of rights, and various other children's needs. The big family that plays a major role is usually the grandmother and grandfather, who are predominantly elderly people with various physical, social, and economic limitations. Grandmothers and grandparents of very many ages are also often not interested in playing or participating in children's games, besides that, in terms of physical strength, many of the grandparents are also unable. Therefore, it is necessary to further investigate what should be a concern in this family-based rehabilitation and what factors play a role and even determine the success of family-based social rehabilitation. This is very important considering that Indonesia is aggressively carrying out family-based rehabilitation, especially for children who need special protection.

## **METHOD**

## **RESULT**

The form of family-based social rehabilitation that children receive from migrant workers can be seen from The characteristics of children and families

This research used a qualitative approach and descriptive methods, to obtain in-depth and comprehensive data. This type of research is a case study on the children of migrant workers in Indramayu who are separated from their mothers. Data collection techniques are carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and also the triangulation process both sources, techniques, and time. This research used open and closed backgrounds. The open background in the field of the research location is in Indramayu Regency.

The technique of selecting informants using purposive sampling, namely a large family of six child caregivers, consisting of five grandmothers and one aunt. Grandfather and uncle became passive informants. Other informants were six children, social workers, and PKH facilitators. Sources of secondary research data include documents, activity reports, statistical data, research results, manuals, and other literature that are considered relevant to the research. Data analysis techniques through the stages of the data reduction process, data display, concluding, and verification. The technique of checking the validity of the data or the validity of the data used in this research was from Lexy J Moleong (2017:175), including *credibility* (internal validity), *transferability* (external validity), *dependability* (reliability), and *conformability* (objectivity).

who carry out the care. These characteristics can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Characteristics of Children and Families of Migrant Workers in Indramayu Regency**

No	Initial	Gender	Age	Place of Birth	Parent's initial and age	Origin	Parenting Information	Birth Certificate
1	ANB	F	2 years old 7 months	Taiwan	ST (68) and SH (65)	Indramayu	Grandmother and grandpa's care	Proof of birth exists
2	APR	F	2 years old 2 months	Taiwan	DW (55) and PR (57)	Indramayu	Grandmother and grandpa's care	Proof of birth exists
3	SA	M	6 years old 2 months	Taiwan	MR (50) and TM (47)	Indramayu	Grandmother and grandpa's care	Proof of birth exists
4	RM	M	5 years	Taiwan	MR (50) and TM (47)	Indramayu	Grandmother and grandpa's care	Proof of birth exists
5	KEA	F	2 years 7 months	Taiwan	HA (60) and RR (58)	Indramayu	Grandmother and grandpa's care	Proof of birth exists
6	NA	F	2 years old 7 months	Taiwan	SU (59) and SJ (59)	Indramayu	Aunty and uncle's care	Proof of birth exists

Source: Researcher (2020).

### Characteristics of Children

Table 1, can be explained in more detail as follows:

1. ANB (2 years old) is in the care of his grandparents, his mother and father are divorced, mother works in Taiwan, where her father is unknown. ANB is cared for by a grandmother (65 years) and a grandfather (68 years) in this house where only three of them live. The economic condition of the grandparents is a poor family with program assistance from the government. ANB drinks milk sent from his mother in Taiwan. ANB has been separated from its mother since infancy.
2. APR (2 years) is in the care of the grandparents of the babies. APR's mother and father are divorced, currently, his mother is still working in Taiwan
3. SA (6 years) and RM (5 years) are siblings who are under the care of grandparents. SA and RM's parents are divorced. Currently, their mother is still working in Taiwan, while the whereabouts of the father is unknown. Grandma and grandfather have not entered old age. Grandma is 47 years old and grandfather is 50 years old. Grandparents' grandparents also still have small children aged 6 years, so SA and RA can play together like siblings with the youngest children of grandparents because of their age.
4. KEA (3 years old) is under the care of her grandparents, her mother and father are divorced, her mother lives in

Taiwan while her father lives in Indramayu but has never met her child and her family has no contact that can connect KEA with her father.

5. NA (3 years) is in the care of an aunt and uncle. His father and mother are divorced, currently, his mother lives in Taiwan while his father's whereabouts are unknown. NA lives with her aunt and uncle because her grandmother and grandfather are too old and can't afford to take care of small children.

Based on the characteristics of children, it can be seen that all children are early childhood aged 6 years and under. The child also separated from the mother and father at a very early age or before 2 years of age. Children are still in the golden age, which is the most important period in children's growth and development to build the basis of the child's personality and soul. Andayani (2017) explains that "considerations of earning a living, sustaining life and getting a better life for their family, overcomes the consideration that children need a family that is complete and harmonious".

### ***Characteristics of the extended family***

Five children are under the care of their grandparents and one child is in the care of aunts and uncles. For four children, the grandmother and grandfather are elderly so there are not many activities that can be done with the children, for example, to play and tell stories. Children are left to play alone with toys or children are only given attention by holding them. According to the grandmother, this is done so that the child doesn't fuss or cry. Two children, siblings who live with their grandparents who are still not old. Thus, the care provided looks different from the

children cared for by the elderly grandparents because the grandparents actively communicate with the child and the child looks active and cheerful.

The parenting conditions provided by the grandparents appear to be predominantly passive. Breheny, Stephens, & Spilsbury (2013) in their research said that care by surrogate parents (grandparents) does not always have a negative stigma on children's development if grandparents are concerned about the needs of their grandchildren. Grandparents monitor and balance the appropriate level of interaction with their grandchildren. Grandmother and grandparent do not have an understanding of early childhood care or related to the psychosocial condition of children who are separated from their mothers and fathers. According to the grandparent, they care like they used to care for their children, although now it is different because of the age factor so that their energy is reduced according to them.

The economic condition of a large family of three children is a poor family with an income below the Regional Minimum Wage (UMR). Two large families including middle economic conditions. To fulfill children's needs, it is obtained from the income of mothers who work as migrant workers abroad.

### **DISCUSSION**

The care of migrant workers' children who are cared for by their extended family requires special attention. Moreover, the dominant child is cared for by the elderly grandparents. Based on this, the social rehabilitation process for migrant workers' children with a large family base in Indramayu is as follows:

### ***Preventive and Supportive Activities in the Social Rehabilitation Process***

The Indonesian government's social rehabilitation program is not only curative but also preventive and supportive in the sense that there are prevention and support efforts so that children are not in a bad condition and need curative action. Therefore, among the children of migrant workers, it appears that most of the social rehabilitation processes are in preventive and curative activities. Child assistants, namely Child Social Workers, ensure that children receive basic needs and adequate care by providing education to extended families/child caregivers. This condition is following the principle: family-centered practice in child welfare includes strengthening families' capacities to function effectively and focuses on both preserving families and protecting children (DuBois & Miley, 2005).

In the informants' extended family, it appears that the main thing that grandmothers and grandparents do is to feed their grandchildren, bathe them, and take care of their children by carrying them to their young children. To play, according to the grandparents, most children are given toys and play alone. Grandparents are also not active in talking or telling stories. One pair of grandparents who are still not elderly, who are less than 50 years old, can still actively talk to their children or tell stories. Likewise for aunts and uncles who were once actively involved in telling stories and playing with children. Passive parenting conditions can hinder the development of a healthy child, on the other hand, good parenting can have a positive effect on a healthy child's growth and development. Supportive parenting (including parental warmth, proactive teaching, inductive discipline,

and positive in- involvement) predicted higher levels of child adjustment over 6 years across the elementary school, even after controlling for kindergarten adjustment and harsh parenting (Leidy et. al, 2010).

### ***Factors that influence family-based social rehabilitation***

#### ***Family Acceptance***

The results also showed that there was a large family acceptance of children. All children being cared for are children who were sent home from Taiwan. The child was born in Taiwan when the mother worked in Taiwan and reportedly married and had children in Taiwan. The extended family also does not know the father of these children. However, the extended family does not have a problem with how their children are married, they sincerely want to accept their grandchildren and take care of them. The acceptance of this extended family is one of the social capitals of the Indonesian culture. Love for the grandchildren, even though the family living conditions are tough in terms of economy and energy, they are still willing to accept and care for them. In Indonesia, it is known as "manganese ora manganese from gathering". This means that even if you don't eat or don't eat, it's important to get together.

#### ***Attachment vs Threat of Attachment***

The results showed that there were children who seemed attached to their grandparents 'grandparents or aunts' uncle, but there were children who also seemed not to be attached to them. The clingy child shows a cheerful expression and looks enthusiastic. However, as with the research results presented by Andayani (2020), not all children show joy in the

care of their grandparents. Some of the children showed very flat expressions, looked dreamy, and not cheerful. Children also seem uncommunicative or less responsive when invited to interact or when asked by their grandparents. Children who appear more silent and expressionless, children appear pensive or pensive or appear to be daydreaming. The child looks quiet, gloomy, and not cheerful in the family who does not give a reciprocal response or actively provides stimulus to the child. This condition indicates a pattern of avoidance attachment, which is a pattern in which children have little interaction with their parents or caregivers. The child tends not to cry when the mother or caregiver leaves but is shy or indifferent when the mother or caregiver returns. Large families who successfully build attachments with children such as children appear cheerful and active, namely children who get a warm and very responsive extended family.

*There is a communication link with parents, especially mothers*

According to Rose & Fatout (2003), *Separation and loss universally carry a measure of harm*. This reveals that separation from loved ones or attached figures for children will be very painful and give suffering to children. Therefore, the children of migrant workers who are separated from their fathers and mothers need to get intervention so that the loss or separation from those closest to them does not cause deep trauma and grieving.

Children who adapt well while staying with their mother and father become migrant workers, namely children who get a warm and very responsive extended family. On the other hand, the

mother also continues to build communication with the child by always contacting the child, making video calls, so that the child can be relieved of the feeling of missing his mother.

*The Importance of Assistants to Strengthen the Existing Culture*

The results showed that the social rehabilitation process would run if there were family assistants. This condition is due to the characteristics of an extended family, namely elderly grandparents, weak economic conditions, and a lack of understanding in the care of early childhood who experience separation from their mother and father. The companion officers in this research were child social workers or known as the Social Worker Service Unit (Sakti Peksos) of the Ministry of Social Affairs. *Sakti Peksos* provides support to families in the form of guidance in childcare, helps fulfill children's basic needs including children's civil rights by connecting with government programs and government services. *Sakti Peksos* in the social rehabilitation process carries out the function of "children safeguarding", which is not only to provide protection for children but also to support children's welfare as a whole. According to Unwin & Hogg (2012), Essentially safeguarding has more preventative connotations that child protection, but being everybody's business from neighbours, friends, family through professionals in the field of childcare. *Sakti peksos* collaborates and coordinates with assistants for the Family Hope Program (PKH) which has an increasingly positive impact on assisted families by meeting various needs, such as meeting basic needs and changing family behavior.



*There is a Social Support of Environment and Peer Acceptance*

Another finding from this research is the acceptance and support of the neighborhood environment. Stigma may be a serious factor, this happens because the marital status of the parents of the migrant workers' children is not clear. In Indonesia, this stigma is commonly referred to as "gift children" or Children Without Documentation (ATT). These terms become a stigma that the children of migrant workers are socio-cultural as children whose origins are not clear because their parents' marriages are unclear, or who the father of the child is not known. This stigma is in the neighborhood of the research location, according to the rankings of the extended family who are caring for children, it is stated that the stigma does not exist or may exist but is not very strong. So that extended families who care for children do not feel cornered by the neighborhood. The acceptance of the closest environment becomes a very valuable social support for families and children, especially children's peers who want to play with the children of migrant workers without any element of verbal violence through ridicule or bullying.

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that:

1. Family-based social rehabilitation can be a mainstay of government programs, with several advantages, namely that children remain in family care. On the other hand, the family's capacity for social functioning increases due to assistance from social workers.
2. The family has the strength/potential that can be developed even though in

this research the extended family that takes care of the children is the grandparents of the grandparents, however, the grandparents can still be a system of resources and strength for the grandchildren by choosing the right behavior under the guidance of social workers.

3. The implication for the practice of social work is that the role of a companion in this research, namely *Sakti Peksos Anak* as an expert, is needed. Behavior changes in the family need help from experts. Besides, it still takes a while for the companion/expert to strengthen the existing conditions, until changes in the family become stable. Therefore it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of the facilitators in the practice of the social rehabilitation process for children and families.
4. The role of the government is still very large in family-based social rehabilitation, especially in fulfilling basic needs and providing companions/experts. Especially if the child's family is a poor family with limited economic and capacity in childcare.
5. The results of this research can strengthen government policies in the childcare system in Indonesia. That the family is the first and foremost place in childcare (family-based care), and childcare refers to the continuum of care by prioritizing family-based childcare.
6. Further research can be carried out to find out how the child develops further, using longitudinal research. Action research can also be an option to strengthen the capacity of extended families in childcare.

Based on this, the recommendations that can be given in family-based social rehabilitation of children are as follows:

1. The vital role of assistants is that it is necessary to increase the capacity of assistants so that they become a potential source that will strengthen family-based social rehabilitation
2. There is a need to improve the migrant worker program, for example, the provision that migrant workers are not allowed to have children under five. This will be a preventive step for the Indonesian nation going forward. Children at an early age have a golden age which will greatly determine the development/personality of the child in the future. Other regulations, for example, must return regularly once a year for migrant workers. Thus, there are no more migrant workers who have not returned home for years, which makes it difficult to develop an attachment to children.

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