

URBANIZATION AND FULFILLMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF ABANDONED FAMILIES IN KREYO VILLAGE, RANDUDONGKAL DISTRICT, PEMALANG REGENCY

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Abstract

Urbanization in Kreyo Village, Randudongkal District, Pemalang Regency, poses significant problems for abandoned families, especially related to the fulfillment of basic material and immaterial rights. These issues include limited access to income, education, health, as well as a lack of emotional attention and moral coaching. This study aims to analyze the influence of urbanization on the fulfillment of the rights of abandoned families, identify the driving factors for urbanization, and understand the perception of families towards their living conditions. Using a qualitative approach with phenomenological methods, data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation. The validity of the data was tested by triangulation techniques, and the data analysis followed the Miles and Huberman models. The results of the study show some key findings. 1) Factors driving urbanization: Urbanization is triggered by limited employment in villages, expectations for improving the quality of life in cities, and support from social networks such as relatives or friends who have migrated in the past. 2) The effect of urbanization on the fulfillment of family rights: Urbanization significantly increases the fulfillment of the economic and educational rights of families left behind through remittances. However, the right to affection and emotional needs still require strong communication adaptation so that family relationships remain harmonious. 3) Perception of the family left behind: Families generally have a positive perception of the improvement in their quality of life after family members migrate, although they also experience changes in roles and responsibilities in the family structure. The study provides important insights into the impact of urbanization and emphasizes the importance of support for affected families, which is expected to be the basis for more inclusive and community-oriented policymaking.

Keywords: Urbanization, Family Rights, Overseas, Social Impact

1 INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is a social phenomenon that has been occurring for a long time and continues to develop in Indonesia, including in Kreyo Village, Randudongkal District, Pemalang Regency. This phenomenon reflects a significant change in population settlement patterns, where individuals move from rural to urban areas in the hope of improved welfare and economic progress (Haris, 2015: 61). Data shows that population migration from villages to cities in Indonesia continues to increase, with the percentage of the urban population expected to reach 66.6% by 2035. Kreyo Village itself has a fairly high level of overseas, especially among the productive age population. The majority of the population works as convection tailors (984 people) and farmers (701 people). Limited employment in villages and expectations for improved economic welfare are the main driving factors for this overseas migration (Widiawaty, 2019: 1). In addition, social networks that have been formed previously help facilitate the migration and adaptation process at the destination.

However, these moves often have serious social and psychological impacts on the family left behind. One of the main problems is the inability to fulfill the basic material and immaterial rights of abandoned family members, such as lack of emotional attention and moral coaching. These rights, which include economic, social, and psychological rights, are essential for individual well-being and social stability (Suryadi et al., 2022: 135). Although many studies have addressed the impact of urbanization in general, there are still shortcomings in studies that specifically examine the fulfillment of the rights of abandoned families. This research has great urgency because it not only identifies the social and economic impacts of urbanization for rural families, but also aims to provide concrete recommendations to create policies that support the sustainability of their lives. By understanding how this phenomenon takes place, this research can contribute to the development of more inclusive and empowered village communities, as well as fight for the welfare of families who are often indirect victims of the phenomenon. This study aims to identify the driving factors, analyze the influence of urbanization on the fulfillment of the rights of abandoned families, and understand their perceptions, in order to provide policy recommendations that support the sustainability of the lives of affected families.

2 METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach with phenomenological methods to understand the phenomenon of urbanization and its impact on the fulfillment of the rights of abandoned families in Kreyo Village. This method allows researchers to delve deeper into the life experiences of informants (Moleong, 2019:3). Data was collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation. Primary data sources are direct informants (abandoned families, village officials, community leaders), while secondary data include migration statistical reports, local policies, and population data. The validity of the data is ensured through triangulation techniques. Data analysis follows the Miles and Huberman model, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. The results of the analysis were presented formally and informally by Sudaryanto (2015-350).

3 RESULTS

The results of this study briefly show that urbanization in Kreyo Village is driven by limited employment in the village, expectations of improving the quality of life, and the support of nomadic social networks. Urbanization has a positive impact on the fulfillment of family economic and educational rights through remittances used for basic needs, home repairs, and school fees, although it presents challenges to the emotional aspect due to reduced togetherness. Families left behind generally have a positive perception of these changes, accept changes in roles in the household as sacrifices for welfare, and still maintain hope for the success of the nomads and the return of togetherness in the future.

3.1 Factors Driving Urbanization

Urbanization in Kreyo Village is triggered by three main interrelated factors. First, the limited employment opportunities in the village are the main reason why many residents choose to migrate. The majority of informants revealed that job opportunities in villages are very limited, especially in the non-agricultural sector, while income from existing jobs is not able to meet the needs of daily living. This encourages residents to look for better-paying jobs in the city. In addition, specialized skills such as sewing or certain technical skills are more valued and have greater prospects in urban areas, thus becoming an additional attraction. Second, the hope for a better life is a strong motivation to travel. Migrants want improved quality of life for their families, including more stable economic conditions, better access to education for children, and adequate health facilities. Although not all expectations can be achieved perfectly, the families left behind feel positive changes gradually as basic needs and several other needs are met. Third, social network support plays a very important role in the urbanization process. The success stories of friends or relatives who have migrated first become a source of inspiration and motivation. This network also makes it easier for new migrants to adapt, both in terms of information, initial assistance, and confidence in facing a new environment. The initial support from such social networks was crucial to help new migrants adjust and overcome various difficulties in the city.

3.2 The Effect of Urbanization on the Fulfillment of Family Rights

Urbanization has a significant impact on the fulfillment of various rights of abandoned families, especially in the economic and educational fields. First, in terms of economic rights, money remittances that are routinely sent by migrants are the main source of income for families in the village. The funds are used to meet daily basic needs such as food, clothing, and board. In addition, remittances also allow families to improve living conditions to be more feasible and increase family consumption patterns with the ability to buy goods that were previously difficult to reach. Although the work of nomads is sometimes uncertain and full of uncertainty, in general the economic status of families has experienced a significant increase. Second, children's educational rights are also helped by financial support from migrants. Education costs can be met so that children can continue their education to a higher level. The quality of education also tends to improve because children can focus on learning without having to worry about costs. In

addition, the migrants continue to actively monitor their children's learning progress through regular communication, so that they still feel involved and responsible even though they are physically distanced. Nevertheless, urbanization also poses challenges to the right of compassion and emotional support. Reduced togetherness and physical interaction between family members causes longing, loneliness, and emotional tension. However, regular communication by phone, text messages, and periodic visits are effective ways to maintain emotional relationships between family members. In addition, the financial stability obtained also helps maintain emotional stability in the family, because material needs are met and conflict due to economic problems.

3.3 Perceptions of Families Left Behind Post-Urbanization

In general, families who are left behind have a positive perception of the impact of urbanization that they experience. They realized that there was a significant improvement in the quality of life. This can be seen from the improvement of the condition of the housing that has become more feasible and comfortable, the ownership of modern facilities such as electricity, clean water, and electronic equipment, as well as easier and better access to education and health services. In addition, urbanization led to changes in the dynamics and roles of family members. Especially for wives who have to shoulder dual responsibilities, namely taking care of the household as well as working side jobs to support the family economy. This change in role is accepted by the family as a form of sacrifice for the achievement of common welfare, and this also shows the family's adaptability and resilience in facing change. In addition, even though they are separated by distance, the families left behind still have high hopes that the nomads will succeed, can improve the family's standard of living, and one day can return to the village to gather and live a stable and harmonious life. This hope becomes a strong motivation that maintains family cohesion and the spirit of togetherness even though they are physically far apart.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of research and discussion of urbanization in Kreyo Village, Randudongkal District, Pemalang Regency, it can be concluded that urbanization in the village is driven by limited employment, expectations for improving the quality of life in urban areas, and strong support from social networks that have already migrated. Economic limitations in villages are the main trigger for migration, according to the push-pull migration theory, where a better life expectancy financially and socially encourages individuals to take the risk of migrating. The success of relatives or friends who have migrated provides validation while facilitating the adaptation process in a new environment. Urbanization significantly increases the fulfillment of economic and educational rights for abandoned families; Money remittances from migrants are the main source of income that allows families to meet basic needs, improve living conditions, and finance children's education to a higher level. The economic improvement brought about through remittances directly contributes to the fulfillment of the family's material needs, although non-material aspects such as togetherness and emotional support are the challenges faced, so that families adapt by utilizing communication technology to maintain bonds. In general, families left behind have a positive perception of improving the quality of life after urbanization, as seen from home improvements, ownership of modern facilities, and better access to education and health. Changes in roles in the family, such as wives who bear dual responsibilities and children who help with household chores, are accepted as a form of sacrifice for the sake of common welfare. The perceived economic benefits are considered commensurate with the emotional challenges that arise, and families are able to adapt and use these challenges as opportunities to strengthen internal resilience with the hope of a better future as the main motivation for maintaining family cohesion despite distance.

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