

# THE PATTERN OF MIGRATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE FISHER SOCIETY IN BOLAANG UKI BOLAANG MONGONDOW SELATAN

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## ABSTRACT

This research brings into focus the socio-economic condition of fishers in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan. This descriptive research deploys a qualitative method and descriptive analysis. The results exhibit the pattern of migration and socio-economic condition of the fisher society and the relationship between the two. 30 informants carried out a circular or temporary migration. 21 informants conducted a weekly circular migration, whereas nine performed a monthly one. The migration is on account of several socio-economic conditions, such as famine, unavailable desired jobs, and no access to resources. Pertaining to the informants' occupation, 16 sell the fish they catch, seven are construction workers, four are non-fish traders, and three undertake odd jobs. According to them, migration is the solution to fulfill their daily needs on the grounds of many dependent family members. 25 informants have 4-6 family members, whereas five others have 1-3. They state an income increase after migrating. Migration has both negative and positive socio-economic effects on the origin and destination migration areas. The government should be more concerned about the fisher society in Bolaang Uki in that they have to leave their job as fishers and seek more favorable jobs instead owing to certain situations.

**Keywords:** *Fisher Society, Pattern of Migration, Socio-economic Condition*

## INTRODUCTION

Unstable economic conditions because of great dependence on fishing are daily problems of the majority of the fisher society living in coastal areas. In consequence, fishers have to migrate to other areas.

Migration, as contended by Chotib (2007), a migration analyst, is an individual movement by virtue of some factors. Migration engages young or single people at large. And yet, several cases demonstrate that migration is not only one-time but also gradual.

Moran et al. (2009) posit that, theories of migration develop over time, from the migration gravitation model, push and pull theory, buffer theory regulation of labor market, to anthropometric approach. In substantial, labor mobility can be categorized into two groups: occupational mobility, in which migration is perceived as labor flow due to access constraint to resources and no economic opportunities in the original areas and geographical mobility, in which migration is defined as the movement of people from one country to another for the sake of access

to food and security and income increases.

Chotib (2007) is of the opinion that the strong relationship with family members in the village and the village society can make going back and forth to the village an attractive proportion. Migrants have various demands towards the urban system for being in correspondence with future plans they make. Single migrants may not set many expectations. However, many migrants set an aspiration to spend their retired life in villages. They keep faith that as long as they act by their assumption, they will be able to return to and eventually live in their hometown.

As defined by Lee Everett (1976), the volume of migration in an area develops by local diversity within the area. Both origin and destination areas have positive, negative, and neutral factors. Factor positives deliver lucrative values to those residing in the area. Several positive factors are schools, job opportunities, and supportive climates. Negative factors give negative value to the respective area and thereby fostering people to move out. Differences in cumulated values between the two areas are inclined to cause population immigration flows.

Zahri (2008) describes what positioning the society and economy in this case means. It is how the development of the analysis of the society and economy is regarded as a socio-economic analysis. Some interpretations and conceptualizations of economy assume that all societies have an economy although in substantial, economic life is changing every time.

Holton (2006) elucidates that the economic life during the preindustrial economy is ruled by reciprocity and redistribution. The market mechanism is not allowed to dominate the economic life. Accordingly, demand and supply are more of political authority. Meanwhile, for a modern society, the market has a critical role in determining a rate. Furthermore, pertinent to the relationship between the crucial role of the economy in society, Polanyi proposes three types of economic processes. They are reciprocity, redistribution, and exchange.

The social characteristics of fishers in Bolaang Uki can be identified from their family size. The more the family members, the higher the needs. Meanwhile, the economic characteristics of the fishers can be identified from the fish catch. In catching fish, fishers will observe the condition of the weather and tidal waves before deciding to go fishing. When the weather remains unsupportive for months, fishers will migrate to another area where fishing is possible. This migration is carried out to meet their daily needs.

As explained by Nadia (2013), capital, in the definition of resource economy, is produced goods employed as a means to produce goods and services exerted in business. The latter goods are, e.g., boats, fishing rods, nets, all of which can be used to produce goods and services. Capital, as an imperative factor in business development, often comes in a limited amount. Most farmers respond to this issue by selling their inheritances (land or plantation) or borrowing some money from saving and loan

cooperatives. Nadia also explicates regarding the production system of the fishers, fishing is conducted at noon and night and is affected by two factors, i.e., weather and fish season. Fishers use handline fishing gear ten times of ten *trp perbuan* and operate *soma dampar* almost every day when the weather is good. Fishing results are not for a commercial purpose only but also a consumption one.

Sugianti et al. (2007) lay out that fishing gear used by fishers' hinges on the fish season. The fishing gear, in general, is composed of 2 sheets of the net, 7-11 meshes, drifting gill nets, and 12 nets below in one strip. Traditional fishers use fishing rods, traps, and fishing nets. In fishing, fishers should observe the weather and water current. Besides, they should master the necessary skills and have experience. Mistakes in spreading the fishing net may lead to the damaged net, and thereby mounting production costs. Meanwhile, in mooring boats when transporting, a high tide will encourage fish to stay on the riverfront to avoid the high tide current. And yet, fishers with *semang* boats may confront difficulties in anchoring in the riverfront because of the substantial existence of woods/branches/waste which may harm fishing nets and boat engines. As such, relevant skills and local knowledge are elemental in fishing activities.

Ali (2012) sets forth that the Indonesian word *masyarakat* was derived from the Arabic word *syaraka*, which means to participate, mingle with, and interact. In English, we know the word society, derived from the Latin

word *socius*, or friends. A society is a group of people interacting with each other and owning infrastructures which can facilitate such interaction and sharing a bond to achieve the common aim. *Ensiklopedia Indonesia* defines a fisher as a person who is active in carrying out fishing activities, either direct or indirect, as his/her livelihood.

The current problem is fishers unable to go fishing because of famine or tidal waves or bad weather. Catering to their daily needs, in consequence, they have to migrate to other areas.

Issues found from the preliminary observation are (a) the pattern of migration conducted by the informants inhabiting Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan, (b) the socio-economic condition of the informants living in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan, and (c) the relationship between the pattern of migration and the socio-economic condition of the informants residing in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan.

## **METHODS**

### **Research Area and Time**

This research was executed in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan for three months (January-March 2020, from preparing the research to compiling the final report).

### **Research Approach**

This is descriptive qualitative research focusing on delineating the real-life happening or phenomenon. Data resulted are either written or oral from the informants and behaviors examined.

### **Research Type**

This research is a case study. A case study is one of the types of qualitative research, by which the researcher is performing an intensive, detailed, and profound exploration of an event, process, or activity at either economic or social levels, the pattern of migration, and the relationship between the pattern of migration and socio-economic condition of the fisher society.

#### **Data Collection Technique and Procedure**

The data, which are a thorough description of the field condition, are collected using the observation technique. Intriguing observation findings related to the research problems are tracked down using the interview technique, whose result is further analyzed by studying relevant documents and field accounts.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Our 30 informants are from the fisher society. To provide apparent descriptions of them, we will shed light on their characteristics identified using research instruments. They belong to the fisher society from Bolaang Uki.

Our informants are 30 heads of fisher families inhabiting seven villages of Bolaang Uki. The villages are Dudepo, Pinolatungan, Salongo, Tolondadu, Tabilaa, Pintadia, and Salongo Timur. Instrument distribution is by age, education level, and the number of family members. The fisher informants are in the group of the labor force or in productive ages. They are 15-64 years old, have elementary, secondary, or vocational secondary education, and have < 3 or 4-6 family members.

**Table 1. Informants' Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of Informants</b>
< 30	12
31-39	9
> 40	9
Total	30

**Table 2. Informants' Education Level**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Number of Informants</b>
Elementary	10
Junior high	13
Senior high	5
Vocational high	2
Total	30

**Table 3. Number of Family Members**

<b>Number of Family Members</b>	<b>Number of Informants</b>
< 3	5
4-6	25
Total	30

**Table 4. Average Weekly Income Before Migrating**

Income (IDR)	Number of Informants
< 300,000	9
300,000-500,000	12
500,000-700,000	9
Total	30

**Table 5. Average Monthly Income Before Migrating**

Income (IDR)	Number of Informants
< 1,000.000	9
1,000,000-1,500,000	12
1,500,000-2,000,000	9
Total	30

**Table 6. Average Monthly Expenditure on Consumption Before Migrating**

Number of Family Members	Number of Informants	Average Monthly Expenditure on Consumption (IDR)
1-3	5	750,000
4-6	25	1,000,000
Total	30	1,750,000
Mean		875,000

**Table 7. Average Monthly Expenditure on Non-food Consumption**

Number of Family Members	Number of Informants	Average Monthly Expenditure on Non-food Consumption (IDR)
1-3	5	500,000
4-6	25	750,000
Total	30	1,250,000
Mean		625,000

**Table 8. Post-migration Occupations**

Type of Migration	Selling Fish Caught	Construction Worker	Non-fish Trader	Odd Worker
	Informant	Informant	Informant	Informant
Circular migrant	16	6	3	3
Permanent migrant	0	0	0	0
Total	16	6	3	3

**Table 9. Post-migration Average Income**

Circular (Periodic)			
Weekly		Monthly	
Number of Informants	IDR	Number of Informants	IDR
0	0	5	3,000,000
0	0	4	3,500,000
4	700,000	0	
3	600,000	0	

4	500,000	0	
4	600,000	0	
3	750,000	0	
3	800,000	0	
21	3,950,000	9	6,500,000
Average weekly income	650,000	Average monthly income	3,222,222

**A. Pattern of Migration in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan**

The social life on the part of the fishing society, especially fishers, is lower relative to that of agricultural or other societies. Migrating to the destination area is an old phenomenon with little concern when it is important to observe as it correlates to natural resources, productive asset control, and economic development in villages. Our informants, which are from Bolaang Uki, are local permanent fishers. However, as time changes, some of them may migrate to another area by virtue of several factors, inter alia, natural conditions, famine, and big waves. Meanwhile, the rest decide to be construction workers, non-fish traders, and odd workers to fulfill daily needs.

The pattern of migration in Bolaang Uki allows informants to determine what occupation suits their skills and a better job opportunity in the destination migration area. Accessible resources are still low in quality and thereby unsupportive for labor productivity. It is consistent with Kusumastanto (2006), that human resources should be quality and skillful and competitive to confront challenges and free competition. As such, low-quality resources engender less

productive labor, who slows down the development process.

Sixteen informants living in Bolaang Uki migrated to Kabila Bone Bone Bolango Gorontalo Province, whereas the rest migrated to Pinolosian Bolaang Mongondow Selatan. These informants executed a circular migration type. After migrating, 16 informants concentrate on trading fish, six become construction workers, three are non-fish traders, and the rest undertake odd jobs. It corresponds with Everett S. Lee (1996), that migration-driving factors are the underlying reasons why an individual decides to migrate. In his push-pull theory, Everett S. Lee spells out four factors inducing people to migrate. The factors are the origin area, the destination area, challenges, and personal factors.

**B. Socio-economic Condition in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan**

Our informants, who are from Bolaang Uki, possess a relatively low socio-economic condition. Their formal education and skill levels are indicative of that condition. Of the 30 informants interviewed, 13 are junior high school graduates, while ten, five, and two are elementary school, senior high school, and vocational high school graduates, respectively. As such, their education levels are considered low.

In general, our informants are highly contingent upon coastal and marine potencies and resources. They have limited knowledge, belief, social roles, and social structures. It is in accordance with Rama (2013), that a coastal area, from the perspective of its local biophysical aspect and coastal and marine spaces and resources, is distinctive so that any human interventions in the area will imbed significant changes, such as changes in landscapes and the meeting of fresh water and seawater which produces a unique ecosystem. Regarding social characteristics, most informants fetch low education levels and unorganized adjacent residency. In other words, they have relatively backward social conditions, notably with respect to access to education, health facilities, and cultural aspects. These conditions, in common, are heralded by the prevalence of poverty, socio-cultural underdevelopment, and low human resources. With the society's social condition, which is relatively at a low welfare level, there is be a larger pressure related to catering to their needs.

Fishers' social life constitutes the chief contributor to the quantity of the production of catch fishery. And yet, their social position within the economic transaction process, which is unequal and exploitative, remains under limitation, hampering them as the producers for earning much. The highest advantages are earned by large-scale fish traders or intermediary traders. These parties are the economic overlords in fisher villages. This condition has been breaking out over years, and fishers are

likely powerless to get themselves chipped out of this condition. The deteriorating social welfare condition among fishers is clear in coastal villages, wherein overfishing is happening, making fishers' catches or income fluctuated, uncertain, and decline over time. Within such a situation, fisher households will be always facing three issues, i.e. (1) hard struggle to meet their daily needs, (2) limited access to education for their children, and (3) access restraint to resources. The three comprise the baseline needs in fisher households but are frequently unfulfilled. With such a reality of life, it is difficult to formulate and build quality society resources.

Our informants' income and expenditures on consumption are, in general, are relatively low before they migrate to the destination areas. Based on our interview with the 30 informants, the average weekly income before migration is IDR300,000-IDR700,000, whereas the average monthly one is IDR1,000,000-IDR2,000,000.

Furthermore, the average monthly expenditure on food consumption is IDR750,000-IDR1,750.000 and that on non-food consumption is IDR500,000-IDR1,250,000. Meanwhile, after migration, the average weekly income is IDR500,000-IDR800,000, and the average monthly one is IDR3,000,000-IDR3,500.000. Moreover, the average monthly expenditure on food consumption is IDR1,000,000-IDR1,600,000, and that on non-food consumption is IDR1,800,000-IDR2,500,000.

### **C. Relationship between the Pattern of Migration and Socioeconomic Condition in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan**

Circular migration has both positive and negative effects on development in coastal villages. Overall, migration makes a positive alteration in both origin and migration destination areas. Migrating enables the migrants to access more suitable jobs and their families to have more facile money and goods flow. Later, migration induces the society remaining in the origin area to open up household businesses, e.g., grocery stores and so forth.

Other positive impacts are a decrease in unemployment in origin villages, increase in family income, new household business opening, productive and consumptive asset ownership, and social condition more oriented to the government design. Meanwhile, the negative implications are the domination of productive assets by a certain society and the inability to adhere to the government's program. The society tends to be consumptive. It is in conforming with Everett S. Lee (1996), that migration is mainly induced by whether or not an area is able to cater to the needs of people residing there. Both origin and destination areas share positive, negative, and neutral factors. Positive factors impart benefits to those inhabiting the area, whereas negative ones render negative values, motivating people to move out. Neutral factors are factors in both origin and target areas and do not prompt individuals to live in or migrate to the area.

Migration lends improved economic life to the informants. Income earned from post-migration occupations can fulfill family needs and provide a better life for them.

### **CONCLUSION**

The pattern of migration carried out by the fisher society has both positive and negative effects upon the origin area. The positive implications are a decrease in unemployment in origin villages, an increase in family income, and a new household business opening. Meanwhile, the negative implications are the domination of productive assets by a certain society and the inability to adhere to the government's program. The society tends to be consumptive. The social life of our informants in Bolaang Uki Bolaang Mongondow Selatan is relatively low because of low education levels, in which most of them are only elementary and junior high school graduates. Accordingly, they have limited knowledge and minimum skills. The informants' income is increasing after migration. In conclusion, there is a relationship between the pattern of migration and the socio-economic condition of the informants. It is demonstrated by the increase in the family economy.

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