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The Role of Social Capital in The Social Networks of Flores Community Groups in Migrating to Denpasar Bali

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Abstrak

Pulau Bali selain sebagai destinasi wisata juga dimanfaatkan sebagai tujuan migrasi masyarakat karena terbukanya lapangan pekerjaan di berbagai bidang. Dalam proses migrasi, masyarakat luar selalu membawa budaya dan latar belakang yang berbeda dengan entitas masyarakat asli. Bali kerap kali dijadikan tujuan migrasi oleh masyarakat Flores yang memiliki dorongan dari faktor ekonomi maupun pendidikan karena faktor geografis yang mudah dijangkau serta perkembangan infrastruktur yang pesat. dalam migrasi yang dilakukan, kerap kali masyarakat tersebut menggunakan modal sosial sebagai alat membangun jaringan sosial dalam mencapai tujuan migrasi. Modal sosial mengikat dijadikan dasar dalam relasi-relasi yang dibangun antar individu sehingga membentuk kelompok yang bersifat homogenitas dan eksklusif. Di dasari oleh konsep modal sosial Putnam, penelitian ini akan mengkaji bagaimana peran dari modal sosial dalam jaringan sosial kelompok masyarakat Flores dalam melakukan migrasi ke Denpasar,Bali. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan eksplanatif sehingga dapat mengkaji fenomena yang terjadi.

Kata kunci : Denpasar, Migrasi, Flores, Modal Sosial, Jaringan Sosial

Abstract

Bali, in addition to being a tourist destination, is also utilized as a migration destination for the public due to the availability of job opportunities in various fields. In the migration process, people from outside Bali often bring different cultures and backgrounds compared to the indigenous communities. Bali is often chosen as a migration destination by people from Flores, driven by economic and educational factors, as well as its geographical accessibility and rapid infrastructure development. In this migration process, these communities frequently use social capital as a tool to build social networks in order to achieve their migration goals. Social capital, which is binding, serves as the foundation for relationships built between individuals, forming groups that are homogeneous and exclusive. Based on Putnam's concept of social capital, this study will examine the role of social capital in the social networks of Flores communities migrating to Denpasar, Bali. This research uses a qualitative research method with an explanatory approach, allowing for an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon.

Keywords : Denpasar, Migration, Flores, Social Capital, Social Network

Preliminary

Indonesia is an archipelagic country inhabited by diverse ethnic groups, religions, and races. These differences and diversities have resulted in a variety of cultures and social lives, as well as distinct customs, beliefs, cultural systems, languages, and territories. As social beings, geographic life significantly influences the customs of ethnic groups, leading to the diversity of communities in Indonesia. According to data from Indonesia's Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2010, Indonesia comprises 1,340 ethnic groups. The multicultural nature of Indonesia implies that in certain areas, there may be a variety of ethnicities, races, and religions living together, as is the case in Denpasar, Bali. In 2010, BPS reported that of the 788,589

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residents living in Denpasar, 65.18% were Balinese, with the remaining population comprising Javanese (25.78%), Chinese (1.13%), Sasak (1.05%), Madurese (0.78%), Sundanese (0.70%), Flores (0.53%), Bali Aga (0.34%), Bugis (0.20%), Malay (0.16%), and 4% from other ethnic groups. The report noted that migrant groups generally settled in urban areas.

Bali is one of the regions renowned for its tourism, attracting both national and international visitors. The rapid development of tourism infrastructure has significantly impacted the local economy, making Bali, especially Denpasar, a destination for urbanization and migration. Advances in technology have made migration easier, driven by the allure of better economic, social, and educational opportunities. Migration from Flores to Denpasar, Bali, occurs for several reasons. Denpasar is a developed urban area with advanced infrastructure, economic activities, social opportunities, and educational facilities. In contrast, Flores, particularly in East Nusa Tenggara Province, faces challenges such as poverty. Poverty in Flores stems from various factors, including environmental conditions, geographic typology, social aspects, education, and economic constraints (Andini et al.,2024). notes that Flores faces severe challenges related to high poverty rates, difficult natural conditions, limited access to education, high unemployment rates, and other cultural and structural factors. According to BPS, East Nusa Tenggara is the third poorest province in Indonesia, with a poverty rate of 20.23%. This is one of the primary factors driving migration from the province to destinations like Denpasar, Bali. Besides poverty, education was major issue that East Nusa Tenggara province including Flores. Education include to be major factor to pushing people either group or individu to take a migration to Denpasar. Social institutions contain an organized system of social relations that implement values that have been agreed upon by society to meet basic human needs. Social institutions arise due to patterns of human behavior to meet needs (Putri et al., 2022).

The most important things to do while doing migration was communication in the other communities. As a imigrant, Flores social group bring other cultural and local behavior that must change while doing migration. Social interaction will run smoothly if it fulfills two conditions: communication and social contact, either directly or indirectly (Lestari in Juliana 2022). Communication and social contact with local society, tourist, and other migrant in Denpasar can bring Flores Migrant to be respectfull and feeling safe and also minimalize social conflict with other group (Sahrain, 2019). Communication is the delivery of information, and the provision of interpretation and reaction to the information conveyed. Social interaction touches all spheres of life in which there is a social environment, so wherever and wherever a

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person will see how the interaction process takes place during the fields of human life, both in the aspects of politics, economy, culture, education, and so on. (Juliana,2022). In the other hand, bad communication bring social problem including missunderstood and other horizontal conflict. According avoid social conflict, communication and social capital can save imigrant group to be survive in other place (Napsiah, 2019).

Migration is often motivated by push-and-pull factors. Push factors include economic challenges, uneven development, and regional disparities. According to Susilowati (in Mujjiburahmad, 2021), migration issues often stem from push-and-pull factors, with population distribution and economic growth disparities playing significant roles. Economic challenges, such as the transition from agrarian to industrial economies in urban areas, also drive migration. Mantra (Putra, 2022). States that limited natural resources and job opportunities are dominant factors prompting people to leave their regions. Additionally, natural disasters, which disrupt the socio-economic conditions of communities, push people to migrate to safer areas(Mutiani et al., 2014). Highlights that individuals who lose their livelihoods due to disasters often rely on social assistance or loans, which exacerbate their financial burdens. Migration from Flores, East Nusa Tenggara, to Bali has occurred for a long time and continues to increase. Economic, educational, and social factors drive this migration, as Flores is among the poorest provinces in Indonesia. Poverty, economic and social stagnation, infrastructure disparities, educational underdevelopment, and unfavorable geographic conditions push residents to migrate. Migrants often form ethnic-based groups and rely on social capital to navigate social segregation. Putnam (in Field, 2018) describes social capital as aspects of social organization, such as trust, norms, and networks, that enhance societal efficiency through coordinated actions. Unlike tangible assets, social capital supports daily life through interpersonal relationships, Syahra (in Amirah et al., 2020). Highlights that social capital fosters peace, connections, and participation in close-knit relationships.

Social organizations, particularly those based on ethnic and hometown similarities, often embody social capital. For instance, a study titled Migration of Banjar People to Indragiri Hilir: An Ethno-Sociological Study on the Role of Social Capital and Networks by Edi Susrianto Indra Putra (2022) concludes that migration from Banjar to Indragiri is influenced by political, social, and economic developments in the migrants' origin areas. The study underscores the vital role of social capital in preserving Banjar identity and identifies three types of social networks: kinship-based, business-based, and religion-based networks (Rahim et al., 2022).

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Another study, Analysis of Factors Influencing Circular Migration Interest to Sumbawa City by Abdul Rahim et al. (2022), found that income and employment significantly influenced migration interest, while age, education, marital status, and land ownership did not. The study emphasizes the need for economic equity and job creation to foster balanced regional development. Similarly, a study titled Factors Influencing Migration of South Sulawesi Residents to Ternate by Ruliyanto Syahrain (2019) notes that migration was driven by job opportunities and income prospects rather than marital factors. Migrants aimed to secure better job opportunities and higher incomes.In Bali, a study titled Social Capital as a Strengthening Factor for Muslim Social Identity in Bali by Napsiah (2019) highlights harmonious relations between the Muslim minority and Hindu majority. Muslims maintain their identity while adopting Balinese cultural elements, such as naming traditions, traditional clothing, and home architectural styles. Social, cultural, and economic capital enable Muslims to foster relationships with the majority group while preserving their identity (Rijal & Tahir, 2022).

Flores migrants bring unique cultures, values, and practices distinct from those of Balinese society. As a migrate society, Flores migrants requere to adapt and respect the local culture and ethnicity. As a homo social, social interaction is a key to all social life. Social interaction cannot be separated from human life or individuals; without interacting with other people or other individuals cannot survive. Social interaction is the key to living together. Social interaction is beneficial for studying and examining societal problems, especially for people of different ethnicities living in the same environment (Ilhami et al., 2023). In migration process, the key of survive in the new place was interaction at another culture to make aculturation and also being respectfull as a outsider. Social interactions require efforts to integrate while maintaining individual and group identities. To achieve migration goals, Flores migrants utilize social capital to establish networks and interactions with other groups. This highlights the importance of social capital in building networks to achieve migration objectives. Therefore, this study examines the role of social capital and networks in the migration of Flores communities to Denpasar, Bali. The aim is to analyze how social and network capital contribute to the migration process (Trihandayani, 2018).

Method

This study employs a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. The qualitative approach involves observation to describe and analyze social phenomena. The data sources are divided into primary and secondary data. Primary data serve as the main source for the research and are obtained through observations of occurring phenomena and in-depth interviews. Specifically, primary data include detailed interviews with informants and

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participatory observations. Secondary data come from scientific works such as books, journals, archives, and previous studies. For data collection, the study involves 10 informants selected based on the following criteria: 1. Flores residents who have migrated to Denpasar, Bali, for economic or educational purposes. 2. Aged between 18 and 55 years. 3. Residing in Denpasar, Bali, for more than two years. 4. Affiliated with a community, social organization, or family network of Flores residents.The theoretical framework for this research is based on social capital theory, particularly as conceptualized by Robert Putnam. According to Putnam (in Field, 2018), social capital refers to aspects of social organization, such as trust, norms, and networks, that enhance societal efficiency by facilitating coordinated actions. Social capital is utilized to improve community efficiency in daily life.

Putnam identifies two fundamental forms of social capital: bonding social capital (exclusive) and bridging social capital (inclusive). Bonding social capital tends to foster exclusive identities and maintain homogeneity, while bridging social capital connects individuals from diverse social domains (Putnam in Field, 2018). Furthermore, Putnam (in Dollu, 2020). Argues that social capital manifests in organized communities, characterized by networks, norms, and trust that foster cooperation and beneficial actions. Social capital, derived from social networks, societal norms, and trust, plays a crucial role in collaboration and relationships within communities.This research applies Putnam's concept of social capital to analyze its role in the migration of Flores residents to Denpasar, Bali. The focus is on the work networks, social norms, and trust values of the Flores community as they navigate the migration process.

Results and Discussion

The findings and discussion are based on in-depth interviews with informants to explore the role of social capital and networks among the Flores community groups that migrated to Denpasar, Bali. Data gathered from these informants illustrate the significant role of social capital and social networks in the migration process.

General Overview Of Community Life

The Flores community in Denpasar tends to live in groups, fostering familial bonds while maintaining close ties. They often reside in the same area—whether in shared rentals, boarding houses, or nearby neighborhoods—allowing them to stay together and build collective awareness rooted in shared identity, language, and cultural similarities. Cultural and ethnic homogeneity is a major factor that drives them to live together. These shared backgrounds form a social capital network that plays a vital role in the lives of Flores

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migrants.The primary driver of migration among the Flores community is economic factors, with most individuals seeking better livelihoods. Denpasar offers more diverse and lucrative job opportunities compared to their hometowns, where traditional economies and limited industrial employment prevail. Education is another influential factor, as many migrants are high school graduates who lack the financial means to pursue higher education. Migration provides opportunities to find work with better wages to support themselves and their families. Migrants often form cohesive groups, sharing accommodations based on common backgrounds and migration goals. This arrangement not only offers comfort but also nurtures a strong sense of familial belonging. Shared cultural backgrounds support these living arrangements by fostering a sense of community and unity.

Bonding Social Capital Within Community Groups

Bonding social capital, described by Putnam as exclusive social capital, emphasizes maintaining homogeneity and fostering close-knit connections. This type of social capital is built on shared cultural backgrounds, regional origins, trust, and norms, encouraging members to form relationships within their own group while limiting interactions with outsiders. Shared ideologies often underpin these social bonds. The data revealed that individuals migrate to Denpasar for several reasons like The presence of relatives or family members who migrated earlier, better economic opportunities in Denpasar, access to more diverse and higher-quality educational institutions. and geographic accessibility and the availability of various modes of transportation.

The Flores community in Denpasar reflects the characteristics of bonding social capital, rooted in shared ideologies, cultural backgrounds, migration goals, trust, and religion. These factors promote exclusivity within the group, limiting daily interactions with outsiders. Migrants tend to live in clusters, driven by their shared regional origin, even if they come from different districts in Flores. Despite originating from diverse areas such as West Manggarai, Central Manggarai, and East Manggarai. The shared identity of being from Flores unites them. Religion, specifically Catholicism, plays a pivotal role in fostering a sense of unity. Informants reported celebrating major religious events such as Christmas and Easter together, reinforcing familial bonds. Regular social gatherings, such as group savings (arisan), further strengthen their sense of community and familial ties (Hapipah et al., 2024; Mutiani et al., 2024; Saputera et al., 2024).

Bonding social capital enhances group homogeneity and exclusivity. Migrants maintain professional relationships with outsiders but prioritize group cohesion in living arrangements

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and celebrations. This aligns with Putnam's concept of bonding social capital, where shared ideologies and cultural identities foster a sense of unity and familial connection.

The Role Of Social Capital In Social Networks

Social capital is integral to the formation of social networks. According to Putnam, social capital can be identified by trust, norms, and networks that improve societal efficiency through coordinated actions. Social capital drives economic improvement through work opportunities, education, and relationships. The Flores community's social capital significantly impacts the formation of social networks. Employment opportunities within the group often arise from personal connections. For instance, an individual working as a security guard may help relatives secure jobs in the same company. This kinship-based network facilitates job placements and economic support(Far & Salong, 2024; Wijayanti et al., 2024).

Although social networks formed through professional relationships exist, they do not significantly foster bridging social capital. Members of the Flores community prefer spending time with their group due to experiences of racial discrimination, stereotypes, and primordialism from the broader society. Informants reported instances of discrimination and stereotyping, prompting them to limit interactions with outsiders. Exclusive social capital within the Flores community fosters collective experiences that provide a sense of safety and comfort, helping members overcome external challenges such as racial stereotyping and discrimination. This social capital strengthens internal bonds, ensuring the sustainability of their migration objectives despite external obstacles.

Conclusion

The Flores community group migrating to Denpasar, Bali, has several motivations and driving factors, including economic opportunities, kinship ties, better education, and geographical considerations. These factors collectively serve as the main reasons for their migration to Denpasar. Within their migration experience, each individual in the Flores community utilizes social capital as a key resource to navigate their life in Denpasar. This social capital is employed as a means to achieve the migration objectives of the Flores community. The bonding social capital possessed by the Flores community migrants in Denpasar, Bali, has a significant impact on the lives of each individual within the group. This exclusive form of social capital fosters homogeneity and strengthens relationships among members, influencing various aspects of their lives, including economic and educational outcomes. Moreover, shared ideologies, cultural and social values, trust, and religious beliefs within the community further reinforce the relationships among individuals in the group. This homogeneity-driven bonding

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social capital creates a strong sense of familial connection, with members supporting one another as though they are family.

Through the social capital they possess, each individual can achieve their goals, whether in education or employment. Data indicates that social capital plays a pivotal role in forming networks, both among individuals within the group and in bridging social connections. For example, in job-seeking, individuals within the Flores community group often help each other secure employment opportunities. Additionally, bonding social capital is evident in their daily lives, as members of the Flores community tend to live together in shared housing or close-knit areas. This lifestyle promotes mutual care, a sense of safety, and a strong familial bond, where members consistently support and rely on each other.

According to Putnam's concept of bonding social capital, the experiences of the Flores migrant community in Denpasar demonstrate how this form of social capital promotes exclusive group identity and fosters homogeneity. Bonding social capital improves the efficiency of interactions within the group and positively impacts the economic conditions of each member. It provides a robust foundation for achieving economic stability, fostering education, and strengthening the overall cohesion of the Flores community in their new environment.

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