

Effect Of Demographic Transition on The Needs of Foreign Workers in Japan

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Abstract

This research is entitled, "The Effect of Demographic Transition on the Needs for Foreign Workers in Japan". The data from this study are from the distribution of questionnaires to students at Kobe Women's University-Japan and the results of interviews from a number of informants in Japan. From the distribution of the questionnaire, there were 70 data related to this research. Specifically, the purpose of this study is to answer the Japanese public's response to the need for foreign workers in Japan and the type of work that dominates foreign workers in Japan. This research will be studied from a socio-cultural point of view. The method used is an open questionnaire and a closed questionnaire with an advanced technique, namely interviews. The results of this study are that of the 70 informants, 60 people responded that Japan was being dominated by foreign workers and 10 more people said they did not agree with the statement. Regarding the dominant occupations carried out by foreign workers in Japan, among others, health workers for the elderly, manufacturing, shopkeepers who are open until late, and restaurants. The point is that it is a job field that is rarely liked by Japanese people and for foreign workers who do not use Japanese much while working. However, foreign workers who want to work in Japan should understand the culture and customs of Japanese society.

Keywords: demographic transition, foreign workers, Japan.

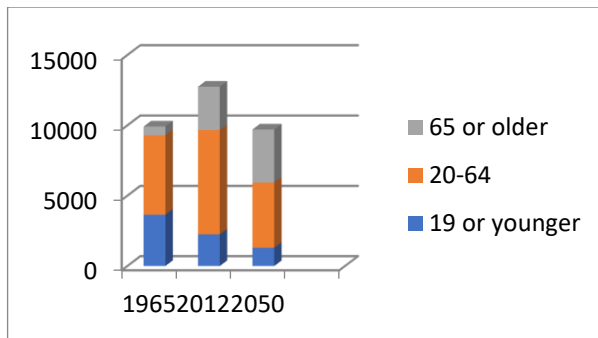
1. Preface

Some time ago, the Indonesian Ministry of Industry received a visit from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) of Japan in order to discuss the large needs of foreign workers in Japan. The METI group led by Yoko Ikeda was received directly by Bambang Satrio Lelono, Director General of Binalattas in his office. He said that Indonesia will be ready to meet Japan's need for worker. This information was reported from tensai-indonesia.com, according to Yoko Ikeda, METI's meeting with the Indonesian ministry was strongly related to the needs of foreign workers by Japan from Indonesia. Starting April 1, 2019, there will be 14 job sectors that apply for new work visas for foreign workers. Yoko Ikeda mentioned that so far Japan was greatly helped by the apprenticeship program from Indonesia. The new work visa will be intended for interns who have completed the apprenticeship program for the opportunity to work in Japan. It's called

tokuteiginou, special skill work visas will be handed out for them. (<https://tensai-indonesia.com>)

Japan's problems today have two sides. It's related to each other. Japan's increasing worker needs in recent years have been in line with declining worker and an increasingly old population and low births. From the existing data, from 2010 to 2015, the number of indigenous Japanese people decreased by 1 million people. In 2017, the population decreased to 227. In the same year, the elderly population reached a high of 27 percent and it is estimated that by 2020 the total elderly population will reach 40 percent. This is supported by data from the "Population Composition Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare 2012" showing the composition of young children to adolescents, adults, and parents described into a curve as follows.

1.1 Kurva Population Composition Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare 2012



From the curve data 1.1. The number of people in Japan is decreasing. Starting in 1965, Japan and other countries in the world had ended the world war. After the war, many descendants were born. The next era in 2012, is a phase of Japan experiencing glory with a very large population of young people. However, this is predicted to decline by 2050. One of them is known as the phenomenon. According to Kuswarno (2009: 2) the phenomenon occurs due to problems and changes in the surrounding environment. The phenomenon is also caused by a rapid change of something from an environment, region, city, even country. Based on the results of research conducted by the author in 2019 through an analysis of 72 informants in Japan and conducted an interview process on students at Kobe Women's University, the cause of the demographic transition (declining population) in Japan was due to Japan's involvement in World War II. Japan is known as the only Asian country that dares to invade and colonize other countries in the world (Pradhana, 2020). Previous research on demographic transitions included Nur (2016) in his thesis entitled "Influence Of Demographic Factors And Economic Factors On Economic Growth: Case Study Of 33 Provinces In Indonesia Period 2010-2014". This Research Focused Its Analysis In How Demographic Transition Influences Economic Growth In 33 Provinces In Indonesia At 2010-2014 Period. Purba (2017) in his thesis entitled "Effect Of

Demographic Transition On Asean Economic Growth". This Research Aims to Analyze the Effect of Demographic Transitions on Economic Growth in ASEAN. Asih (2018) in her research entitled, "Demographic Transition And Financial System Stability: Case Studies Of Indonesia And Japan". This Research Provides Input to Stakeholders in the Financial System Can Prepare Themselves To Face the Impact of Demographic Transition, Among others, With Innovation of Financial Service Products and Infrastructure as well as Various Arrangements From Related Authorities. Based on previous research, no one has discussed the influence of demographic transitions on the needs of foreign workers in Japan. This research is very interesting to research.

2. Methods

Methods and techniques are two very important tools to get the end result of a study. Methods are ways of approaching, observing, analyzing, and explaining a phenomenon (Kridalaksana: 2011). While technique is a way of implementing the method (Sudaryanto: 2015). The following three stages are the stages that researchers do to get the final results of the data. The three stages are the stage of data collection, the stage of data analysis, and the presentation of data analysis results.

Data collection techniques are one of the methods that exist in data collection using techniques or methods used by researchers to collect data (Riduwan: 2010). In the data collection stage used questionnaire methods and advanced techniques in the form of interviews. Questionnaire is a data collection technique that is done by giving a set of written statements to respondents for answer. Questionnaires are used by researchers as research instruments, the methods used are with open questionnaires and closed questionnaires. According to Arikunto (2006), Questionnaire is a written

statement that is used to obtain information from the respondent in the sense of personal reports or things he knows. While according to Sugiono (2008), a questionnaire is a technique of data collection conducted by giving a set of questions or written statements to respondents to answer. From the two definitions, it can be concluded that the questionnaire is a set of methods / techniques for collecting data by giving a number of questions or written statements to the respondent about the person or things he knows. The aim of questionnaire in this research is to confirm that the social phenomenon is indeed true and to measure the Japanese people's concern for this phenomenon which tends to become a social problem in the country.

To ensure the accuracy of the information obtained, further techniques are carried out, namely interviews. Interview is the process of obtaining information for research purposes by means of Q&A while face to face between the questioner or interviewer with the answerer or respondent using a tool called interview guide (interview guide) (Nazir: 1988). Interview is a method of data collection by way of unilateral Q&A conducted systematically and based on research objectives (Lerbin: 1992). In this study, the interview method was conducted by asking directly to respondents who experienced directly and became a source of data in the problems to be discussed. In this case researchers tend to use this method to obtain written data. In the next practice, this sadap technique is followed by advanced techniques in the form of recording techniques and free libat cakap techniques. The technique of recording is to record things that are considered important. In the technique of 'bebas libat cakap', researchers only act as observers of the opinion of informants.

The stage of data analysis is a very decisive stage. At this stage, the data that has been obtained will be analyzed. According to Komaruddin (2001), the process of data

analysis is the activity of thinking to decompose a whole into components so that they can recognize the signs of components, their relationship to each other, and their respective functions in one unified whole. The method used to analyze data is a descriptive method. Descriptive method of analysis is a research method that is done based on existing language facts, namely by describing, focusing on a problem, and presented based on existing data (Sudaryanto: 2015). According to Djajasudarma (2006: 9), descriptive research methods are methods that aim to provide a systematic description of the data, properties, and relationships of phenomena to be studied. Descriptive methods are used to tabulate data, classify data, and describe matters related to this research.

The stage of presentation of analytical results is the effort of the researcher to display in the form of written "reports" of things that have resulted from the work of analysis, especially the rules. The way the rule is presented is known as the method of presenting the rules; It consists of two types, namely those that are informal and those that are formal. The method of informal presentation is the formulation with ordinary words (a natural language) while formal presentation is the formulation with signs and symbols (an artificial language) (Sudaryanto: 2015). In this study, the results of data analysis are presented using informal methods, namely explaining data by discussing all elements descriptively.

3. Conclusions

The data source of this study is derived from the spread of questionnaires to Kobe Womens University-Japan students. From the spread of the questionnaire, obtained data as many as 70 pieces. Informants in this case come from different regions of Japan. This reinforces the results of research from various conditions in

Japan. In addition to questionnaires, this study is also strengthened by advanced techniques in the form of interviews. The interview process was conducted to several Japanese informants. This is done to confirm the truth of the data as well as to deepen the issues discussed in this study.

Here is the tabulation of data from the results of the spread of the questionnaire. The first question is, "Do you know about Japanese foreign workers?". All the informants knew. Although there were two people who replied that they did not know very well about it. The second question is, "Do you agree that Japan currently needs a lot of foreign workers?". From this question; Six people agreed strongly, fifty-three said they agreed, and eleven people said they disagreed. The third question in the questionnaire asks about the distribution of types of jobs dominated by foreign workers. Regarding the dominant work done by foreign workers in Japan, among others, health workers for the elderly, manufacturing, shopkeepers who are open until late, and restaurants.

This is attributed to the next question: "Is there a link between demographic decline and an increase in foreign workers?" Some opinions answer the question, among others, Japan's population will decrease, so worker shortages will also occur, and the number of foreign workers will increase. In line with these opinions some corroborating opinions include that the number of foreign workers increased due to worker shortage due to a declining population, the number of workers decreased because the working age of Japanese people remained. Therefore, it had no choice but to rely on strangers. With regards to the problem of reduced worker numbers, there is no choice but to gather worker from abroad. As worker shortages develop and it becomes difficult for Japanese people to conduct economic activities alone, we must hire talented foreigners. Reinforced by another opinion that foreign power is necessary for a situation where the worker in Japan is not

enough. The number of workers in Japan is dwindling, leading to worker shortages and needing foreign worker assistance.

The number of foreign workers is increasing as Japan's population decreases. As its population declines, it has no choice but to rely on foreign workers. Some similar opinions say that foreign workers can be employed on a contractual system even at low wages. By having enough foreign worker, Japan does not consider the decline in population to be a major problem. But another opinion says if the Japanese population cannot meet the needs of the workforce, so it must hire foreign workers, so the demographic transition is related to the needs of foreign workers in Japan. The next question is "is this a problem in Japan?". Three people said this was a very big deal. Beside that 21 people said the condition was problematic. Another 46 people said conditions were not a problem in Japan. This is due to the adequacy of foreign workers who can still meet the needs of worker in Japan. However, Foreign Workers who want to work in Japan must understand the culture and customs of Japanese society.

4. Conclusions

Data was collected by distributing questionnaires to Kobe Women's University students. There are 70 data which are then analyzed. The results of this study were from 70 informants, as a result of the demographic transition of 60 informants agreed that Japan is currently dominated by foreign worker and 10 others expressed disapproval of the statement. As for some definitions of Hikikomori from the perception of Japanese society as follows, namely someone who always shuts himself up or isolates himself in the house for a long time (from one month to years), someone who does not leave the house and refuses to do activities with other parties, someone who is not connected with society, someone who is isolated because he doesn't have

good relations with society, someone who doesn't work or attend school, and someone who depends on his parents for his life. Regarding the dominant work done by foreign workers in Japan, among others, health workers for the elderly, manufacturing, shopkeepers who are open until late, and restaurants. The bottom line is employment that is rarely preferred by Japanese people and for foreign workers who do not use Japanese much while working. Foreign workers who want to work in Japan must understand the culture and customs of Japanese society.

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