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## **COVID-19 AND MIGRANT WORKER: A CASE STUDY OF THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH OF CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN EAST LOMBOK DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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### **Abstract**

The phenomenon of migrant workers from Indonesia leads to numerous internal issues in the family. Parents who play a significant role in the family are unable to perform their duties to their full potential, particularly when it comes to supporting the growth of children in their health and education. Children who have their migrant worker parents abandon them frequently face a variety of disadvantages, such as poor health and educational opportunities. Children's education will undoubtedly be impacted, particularly in light of the Covid-19 epidemic, which has an effect on educational institutions. Their health is also in danger. Due to this circumstance, this article focuses on the education and health of migrant worker children as well as how they develop academically. This study was carried out over the course of six months (January–June 2022) in Suralaga, East Lombok utilizing qualitative techniques and a phenomenological perspective. Ways for gathering data by observations-participation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The study included a sample of 30 respondents, including migrant workers, those who looked after their children, teachers, healthcare professionals, and local government. According to the findings of this study, migrant workers' children in Suralaga District generally lead happy lives. Children of migrant workers have good physical and educational outcomes, but they struggle with mental health issues. Therefore, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, parents' attendance is crucial for their children's education and health.

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## A. INTRODUCTION

One of Southeast Asia's top distributors of migrant workers is Indonesia (Hamdi, 2021; Parrenas, 2008 ; Wahyudi, 2017 ). Because migrant labor in Indonesia is a significant source of foreign exchange, it is expanding and beneficial to the nation (Fatimah, 2017). Foreign exchange heroes, or those who benefit the nation, are referred to as migrant laborers. They are “development heroes” who have helped the country and the state advance (Sitamala and Hambali, 2020). In 2021, there will be 72,624 Indonesia migrant workers abroad. In contrast, there will be 40,805 migrant laborers NTB Province in 2021. This data demonstrates that the Covid-19 virus, which has affected the entire province of Indonesia, is to blame for the decline in the number of Indonesian migrants working overseas. In the East Lombok district, there were 44,077 male migrant workers and 4,291 female migrant workers between 2013 and 2017. In 2020, there will be 3,566 migrant laborers overall, including 2,673 men and 893 women, in the Suralaga sub-district alone (BP2MI, 2021; BPS, 2017; BPS, 2020).

The occurrence of migrant workers from Indonesia causes numerous internal issues in the family (Hakim, 2011: 261). Parents who play a significant role in the family are unable to perform their duties to their full potential, particularly when it comes to supporting the growth of children in their health and education. Parents' influence over their children can help shape a child's personality and social skills appropriately for his age. A child who receives adequate love from both parents will develop emotionally, socially, cognitively, and spiritually healthier. Children who receive their parents' undivided attention will undoubtedly feel significant and valued in the family, which will allow them to be more adaptable in their personal development, feel totally accepted, and later find it simpler to engage with and love others (Suharto and Nurwati, 2018).

Since he was a child, a person's family has become the most significant factor in his life. Character and habits are developed within the family. Additionally, the family serves as the setting for the first education, not a school. Losing the significant influence that a family has on a child's childhood can encourage bad behavior that the child carries into adulthood. Parental responsibilities include safeguarding, educating, and imparting knowledge to their children in order to promote healthy growth and development. However, children who are left behind by their parents to work as migrant laborers may have problems developing since they don't have a mother or father figure by their side, and the mother and father position will be forced to be filled by other parents (Wahhab, 2020)

This article intends to explicitly study how children of Indonesian migrant workers' educational development and physical well-being are affected by family care. The need for this research to determine how abandoned children of Indonesian migrant workers are doing is essential. Children who are left behind by their parents to work as migrant workers must deal with a variety of issues, from starvation and dropping out of school to a loss of parental affection and care. Particularly with the Covid-19 virus that has affected people's lives and brought about several changes in a variety of areas, including the economy, education, and health. The government implemented a number of strategies to

address the Covid-19 issue. In order to comply with health regulations and carry out vaccines, for example, the government created policies for online learning for school pupils in the field of education. Foster parents will instruct and mentor children whose parents leave behind to work as migrant laborers about the risks of Covid-19 and how children learn during the Covid-19 epidemic. The life that a child leads will undoubtedly be different from that of children whose parents do not work as migrant workers without the support of their parents.

There hasn't been much research on migrant workers' effects on the health and education of the kids they leave behind during Covid-19 outbreak. Researchers like Kholis (2017), Purwatiningsih (2016), Suryadi (20017), Wahyuningsih and Wulan (2019) have written about this topic and describe how one effect on migrant children is that they have a low orientation for higher education. Furthermore, according to some experts, children of migrant workers typically decide not to pursue further education and instead prefer to become migrant workers like their parents. Additionally, they disobey their parents, demand things against their will, refuse to eat, spend a lot of their free time at coffee shops, and have health issues. Children also lack the right to identification, do not practice religion properly, and are the target of violence. Given that none of the articles mentioned above directly address the education and health of children of migrant workers during the Covid-19 epidemic, this research is innovative and can fill the gap left by earlier material that exclusively focused on the effect on children of migrant workers.

The lives of migrant workers' children in Suralaga sub-district are complicated by a number of issues, including inadequate child care, insufficient affection, loosening of parental control, bad behavior, and disrespect for authority figures. The typical economic situation for children of migrant workers is one of prosperity. Children of migrant laborers also receive excellent schooling. They are permitted to continue their education through bachelor and master program, however some do drop out and lead to early marriages. There are some children who opt to follow in their parents' footsteps and work as migrant workers after completing high school. Their offspring suffer from mental and emotional disorders in terms of their psychological well-being. None of the children of migrant workers are extremely unwell or malnourished in terms of physical health. The attendance of parents is crucial for their children's education and health, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **B. METHODS**

Three villages in the Suralaga sub-district of East Lombok—Suralaga, Paok Lombok, and Dasan Borok—were the sites of this study. The three villages are places where many people who migrate to work in Indonesia marry, have children, and then leave their children in the care of their family. A qualitative research methodology was applied to collect and analyze data. Researchers are interested in learning more about the life of Indonesian migrant worker children during the Covid-19 outbreak in the Suralaga sub-district of East Lombok, including their educational growth and their health while receiving care from their

families. Using a phenomenological method to data analysis, this study examined the experiences of children after they were left by their parents to be migrant worker over the course of six months (January–June 2022). In this study, 30 informants—community leaders and families who look after migrant workers' and kids—were involved. In-depth interviews, documentation, and observation-participation will be used to gather data.

## C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **The Lives of Children of Migrant Workers After Their Parents Left**

The family is a child's first home, the first place where they are nurtured and raised, and a place where they can feel at ease. As a result, the family serves as the framework for how children will eventually spend their lives (Candrasari, 2012). This is in line with the duties of parents, which include guarding, educating, and imparting knowledge to their offspring in order to promote healthy growth and development. However, children who are left behind by their parents to work as migrant laborers will have problems developing since they lack a mother or father figure at their side, forcing foster parents to fill the mother or father position (Wahhab, 2020).

Usually, Indonesian migrant workers who are already parents will leave their kids in the custody of family members who are at home, including their grandparents. But when they are looked after by their grandparents, these kids notice the lack of love they receive. Similar to youngsters whose parents are at home, they require greater love from their parents. This occurs because the grandparents are unable to raise and care for the child since they are elderly. As a result, these kids can do whatever they want and their association cannot be properly controlled. Lili Hariani, the family welfare program leader in the village of Dasan Borok, said the following:

*"Yes, of course, living with his grandma is much less than parental care, as parenting actually calls for the role of parents. In contrast to parents who can control their children in a day, a grandmother's love for her grandson is only limited to the love between grandmother and grandson, without forbidding him to do as he pleases and without directing him where. Therefore, if a child is left behind, they will be neglected (interview on March 24, 2022).*

As the informant above stated, migrant workers' children who are cared for by their grandparents receive less attention than when they were raised by their biological parents. Because a grandma only loves her grandson to the extent that grandmother and grandson love each other, the child's life will be neglected. They are free to go anywhere without their granddaughter's consent and are unable to restrict what their granddaughter can do. Due to his advanced age, his grandma was unable to guide and control the youngster, thus he was unable to be strict with him. Unlike biological parents who can effectively discipline their kids since kids respect their parents more and won't challenge what they say.

Because of the function of a mother, even though there is no role of a father by her side, children whose fathers are Indonesian migrant workers who will be

cared for by their moms, they will not feel abandoned and lack love. Even though they don't live together, communication between them is effective, allowing the youngster to continue to experience his father's influence. When fathers return from abroad, kids are also more honest and less awkward around them. A husband will be provided for if his goal is to support his family by working as a migrant worker. Unlike children whose parents leave as migrant workers and are only cared for by their elderly grandparents, especially if the child is abandoned by his parents, the child's life is not guaranteed. This is as expressed by Hamudin, who is a former Migrant Workers from East Paok Lombok hamlet:

*"The child's existence is not guaranteed, especially if his parents desert him, unlike youngsters whose parents leave as migrant laborers and who are only cared for by their elderly grandparents. Thank God, my wife always shows my child affection, and she takes good care of him. Being a migrant worker while my son was little, I was concerned that he wouldn't know me when I went home. I also did this so that my wife and kids wouldn't worry and feel sad all the time, so I'm probably the person who calls me the most. I protect myself. I also keep on easily sending my wife the things she needs for herself and my kids" (interview on March 16, 2022).*

As the above-mentioned informant noted, his children were young when he was a migrant worker, and his wife, who was at home, took care of them. So that his kid does not lose sight of his fatherly role and does not feel awkward around his father when he returns from abroad, he frequently contacts his son to share news about his daily life. He also did this to prevent his wife and kids from worrying and grieving too much while he was gone. He saves himself money from his earnings as a migrant worker and seamlessly transfers funds to his wife's children so they can pay for their living expenses and education expenses.

Children of migrant workers do not encounter any economic shortages or issues because they have access to whatever they require and want on a daily basis. Even kids whose parents are migrant workers typically have more money than kids whose parents are not foreign workers. However, it requires a foster parent who can manage the child's finances well to ensure the child's life continues to be protected even after his parents are no longer there (Maharanni, 2021). Angga Sarimah, the head of Dasan Borok Village, stated as follows: *"In fact, if we talk about life economically, it is even better. This is why I say that, perhaps on average, children whose parents are migrant workers must have an Android phone, which is inferior to the one whose parents are migrant workers"* (interview on 24 March 2022).

According to the source quoted above, on the whole, migrant workers' children's lives are affluent from an economic standpoint. These kids typically already own telephones, motorcycles, nice clothes, excellent homes to live in, good educations, and other things. This occurred because their parents wanted to improve their family's happiness and household economy. Unlike regular people, who might not always be able to give their kids the same kind of happy, affluent life that these migrant workers do. Even though some children of migrant workers have terrible luck because of their parents' employment, most of them live normal lives. Some even experience abandonment because their parents fail

to adequately care for them. But when seen from the perspective of their lifestyle, migrant worker children's lives are often rich.

As long as migrant workers' children are raised by their families back home after being abandoned by their parents, they will encounter a variety of issues in their daily lives. The association of children of migrant workers is one of the issues that arises. Foster parents are unable to provide the same level of ideal supervision of their foster children's interactions as biological parents do. Foster parents frequently indulge and give their kids free reign. The child's nature, which tends to demand unrestricted freedom and a lax approach to punishment when the youngster misbehaves, is beyond the control of the caregiver. Children that experience this lack the ability to control their own behavior and are always demanding their wants (Maharanni, 2021). Turmawazi, the head of the migrant worker NGO from Suralaga village, said that:

*"Usually they are entrusted to their grandparents, whose names are old people with blurred vision and others, if this child doesn't go to school or doesn't recite the Koran, it will tend to be naughty from several cases at the school at the Koranic place after we ask why you are living with grandma in such an unsupervised manner" (interview 16 March 2022).*

As the informant mentioned above, the affiliation of children of migrant workers becomes troublesome because there is no one to educate them what is right and wrong on their side—their parents. These kids have a tendency to be mischievous; they frequently skip class and throughout the Koran, and they criticize their friends and even adults. This occurred as a result of the fact that their grandparents' supervision and strict moral instruction were lessened while they were living with them. They also observe what those around them are doing, often by watching films on the internet through their cellphones. To help and educate their children about what is appropriate and inappropriate to conduct in social situations, parents play a crucial role.

Particularly with the Covid-19 incident, it has altered people's life and had an impact on all facets of their existence. Particularly, Indonesian migrant workers who work abroad were at first unable to work and transfer money to their wives and children because the economic options there were stopped. Children's health and education are also impacted by COVID-19, particularly those whose parents are migrant workers who are away from home.

### **Education Development of Children of Migrant Workers**

A child receives their formal education, as well as their social and moral education, first and foremost in the home. From childhood to maturity, parents are responsible for teaching and giving education to their children. The importance of parents in their children's education cannot be overstated because education is the main asset that every person must possess in order to live in today's world. There are numerous benefits for kids from having parents involved in their schooling. Many people succeed once they become adults and enter the actual social world (Ariyani, 2016).

On average, Indonesian migrant workers in the Suralaga subdistrict have quite high levels of education. This is evident from the large number of migrant

workers' children who are able to attend school up until they complete S1 and some even reach S2. A large number of migrant workers also send their children to study beyond the Lombok region. And as a result of their education, these kids achieve success and good outcomes; they can go on to work as physicians, midwives, pharmacists, engineers, police officers, and other professions. Unlike kids whose parents don't work as migrant labor, many of these kids can't attend school until they graduate, when they eventually find themselves jobless and forced to work as laborers.

The challenges of these parents, who are willing to work as migrant workers and must be willing to leave their children while they are abroad in order to pay their children's school tuition, are also inextricably linked to the achievement of these children. H. Jalal, a former migrant laborer, current activist in Suralaga Village, and former head of Suralaga village said this:

*"They are safe, sometimes left with their grandmothers and uncles, they are still sent money, some are even used for college from the results, even a lot of pharmacists who are funded by their parents who become migrant workers are Saudi products, there are even doctors, Thank God, nobody has dropped out of school, especially in this village, even their children have finished their master's degree in school" (interview on March 13, 2022).*

According to the informant quoted above, Suralaga Village provides migrant workers' kids with a secure environment for their schooling. While working as migrant workers, parents still send money to children who reside with their grandparents or uncles. Parents utilize their income to pay for their kids' schooling; some parents even see to it that their kids finish school and go on to become pharmacists. Even though it can be noticed that there are kids who have earned their master's degrees in education, there aren't any migrant worker parents' kids who have quit school in Suralaga village.

Even though children of migrant workers typically have strong educations, some migrant worker children drop out of school and are unable to finish their education. The attitude of parents who ignore their children, pay insufficient attention to their growth and development, and disregard their right to a proper education is what leads to youngsters dropping out of school. Children drop out of school for a variety of reasons, including lack of funds, environmental problems, inadequate parental supervision, inadequate parental education, and others (Anshor, 2018). Turmawazi, the head of migrant worker NGO for Suralaga Village, said the following:

*"With regard to education, the grandparents are old and not overly rigorous because they are the one that looks after him. When there is no primary school, I frequently find that some of the children who were abandoned by their parents abroad have dropped out of junior high and high school (interview to be held on March 16, 2022)*

This was also expressed by Masitah, a retired teacher in Paok Lombok Lekok hamlet said,

*"If the father is not patient in taking care of the children who are the victims, sometimes the school is not taken care of, there are even husbands and wives who go and the children are taken care of by their grandmother, right, the grandmother is old, the school is not taken care of. Some even drop out of school." (interview to be held on March 15, 2022)*

According to the informant who spoke before, if the child's old grandparents do not adequately care for him, his education may suffer. Even children whose moms work as migrant laborers and who are reared by their fathers are often not the fathers' responsibility. Due to his foster parents' neglect, the child of the migrant worker is forced to drop out of school. If there are no migrant workers' children who drop out of school in elementary school, these kids typically drop out of junior high and high school. It is the duty of parents to send their kids to school, but if they fail to do so, the kids' education will suffer and they may even stop going to school altogether. The reason migrant workers' children drop out of school is because their parents abandoned them by leaving the child in the care of his or her elderly grandparents and failing to provide funds for the child's school expenses.

Children who have left school are typically unemployed and a financial burden on their parents since they lack the resources to obtain employment. Early marriage, which is always closely associated to school dropout in youngsters, is the second effect of dropping out of school. Parents' ignorance of how important school is to their children's lives can lead to their children dropping out of school. Due to this, some parents choose to marry off their children at a young age (Basmawati & Neolaka, 2021). Hj. Humairah, a member of the family welfare program and a member of *Posyandu* (integrated healthcare center) officer in Paok Village, stated the following:

*"I have two children; one of them, who is 23 years old, graduated from college, and the other, who is 17 years old, graduated from high school but chose to get married rather than attend college. We are unable to do anything because my son is already married because I want to send him to school to continue his studies"* (interview on March 13, 2022).

Masitah, a retired teacher from Paok Lombok Lekok hamlet said the same thing:

*"Many, on average, junior high school students who are left to wander. Sometimes, when there are only three months till examinations, they get married. Maybe there wouldn't be as many incidents of teenage marriage if these kids had full parental monitoring. Parental monitoring, in my opinion, is the key determinant. Perhaps situations like this would not have occurred if the parents had been fully in charge of these kids"* (Interview taken on March 15, 2022).

As stated by the informant above, he has advised his son to pursue his studies now that he has completed high school because he can afford to pay for his education. However, because her son would sooner get married than finish school, the mother is powerless to change her son's mind. She believes that perhaps her child is destined to get married young and that there is nothing she can do to stop it. In Paok Village, West Lombok, children of migrant workers who marry young are typically still in junior high school, and occasionally they get married when they have three months till their final examinations.

The main reason why these kids decide to get married young is because their parents don't keep an eye on them, which makes their life more erratic, unstructured, and allowing them to do anything they want without asking for



permission. Adoptive parents. The youngster feels unloved by his parents and believes he has grown to be a burden. The youngster ultimately decided to get married young in order to lessen the financial strain placed on the parents. The child decides to marry early rather than complete his education, despite the fact that his parents want him to continue his studies and be able to support his child's education. Because the youngster has never had a father figure in his life and has only ever lived with his mother or grandparents. He desired to experience the fatherly affection he had never known because of his father's migratory labor job. In order to experience the affection of a guy in his life and to have someone to care for him in numerous ways, the child decides to get married.

The kids of migrant workers who, after finishing high school, decide against continuing their education and instead choose to work as Indonesian migrant workers like their parents. These youngsters leave their villages in search of work because they realize that the meager wages they receive are not sufficient to support them. These kids make the decision to work as migrant workers because they observe what their parents go through as migrant workers. It might also be because locals there frequently decide to work as Indonesian migrant laborers. Because they receive a significant pay that allows them to support their families. In Paok Lombok Lekok hamlet, Azizah, a former migrant worker, said this: *"My son, who has finished from high school, wants to continue his studies but there is no money so he decides to travel to Malaysia"* (interview on 15 March 2022).

The government implemented a policy in the area of education during the Covid-19 epidemic, prohibiting in-person instruction in favor of online instruction. Many schoolchildren experience less than ideal learning as a result, and they have trouble comprehending the teacher's explanations of the material. Children miss their regular school lives from before Covid-19, when they could usually meet up with pals there to play, chat, study in groups, and other activities. However, they are unable to participate in the activities they used to perform while at school because of the Covid-19. The only adults who can accompany migrant worker children to school during the COVID-19 pandemic are their elderly grandparents, who are unable to comprehend the modern world's sophisticated technology. When learning online, unlike children whose parents are at home, they will be attended and guided by their parents if they struggle with the material and need help understanding it. Even though the government has started to promote face-to-face instruction once more, parents' involvement in helping their kids learn at home is crucial for the advancement of kids' education.

### **Development of Children's Psychological and Physical Health from Migrant Workers**

The most crucial thing that parents must do is to maintain their children's mental and physical health. this is due to the fact that both physical and mental health are very important for children's growth and development and are highly sustainable (Dwindita, 2021). It is impossible for migrant workers to fully care for their children's mental and physical wellbeing. Due to this, migrant workers' children are unable to receive their parents' complete love and attention while they are away. They can't live in harmony like a family whose parents stay at home

and spend every day together. The parental responsibilities of migrant workers go beyond only ensuring that their kids have access to necessities like food, water, clothing, and the like. In order for kids to grow and develop properly, it also gives them good mental and physical health.

Children of migrant workers frequently encounter issues with and disturbances in their psychological well-being. This occurs because he does not have parents nearby to take care of and love him unconditionally like a child whose parents are at home. The youngster must feel jealous of kids whose parents are happy and content at home because such kids get to spend every day with their families, receive unconditional love from them, and be spoiled with them. Children of migrant workers are more reserved, closed off to others, often harbor their wants, mischievous, emotional, inclined to speak angrily, lack respect for authority figures, and other issues. The leader of Dasan Borok Village, Angga Sarimah, stated this: "From a psychological point of view, it is absolutely different for children whose parents are migrant workers and children whose parents are not migrant workers" (interview on 24 March 2022).

In Paok Lombok Lekok hamlet, Zurriyatun Toyyibah, a former migrant worker similarly expressed the following:

*"My son has psychological issues; he frequently cries out of the blue when he thinks about his father, and he also cries a lot when he does so. My son also felt sad when he observed the infant being delivered by his father while he was at school"* (interview 14 March 2022).

According to the above-mentioned informant, his son's psychological issue has existed since his father abandoned him to work as a migrant worker. The boy frequently sobbed after talking with his father to share news and speak with his wife and kids as normal. Because the child is remembering his father's presence while he was still at home, he frequently cries when daydreaming and thinks about his absent father. The son was very close to his father and wasn't used to being without him, so when his father started working as a migrant worker, the boy felt like he had lost a father figure. While at school, the youngster frequently experiences feelings of envy for other kids who are escorted to school by his father and kids who have just started school who are entirely accompanied by their parents, as opposed to him who can only be cared for by his mother.

According to information gathered by the kids of Indonesian migrant workers in Suralaga District, not one of them had malnutrition. Because her parents took good care of her while they were gone working as migrant laborers, this was possible. These children don't even have the least economic hardship; in fact, one could say that their lives are rich. As long as the parents are able and willing to, they will endeavor to fulfill anything the child asks for in order to make him or her happy forever. Children of migrant workers typically only endure fever, illness, coughing, and runny noses as far as health issues go; they rarely become really ill (Widyarto & Rifauddin, 2020). There are no migrant worker children that are malnourished due to the local government's strong commitment to the wellbeing of young people. The government directly contacts the puskesmas and is carried out by the health office itself, even for children affected by DHF. Additionally, the government will help a youngster even if they are

malnourished. Hj. Humairah, a Posyandu Officer (integrated healthcare center) in Paok Lombok Village, stated the following:

*"There are no issues with the physical health and nutrition of the migrant worker children at the posyandu; their health is excellent in terms of weight, height, belly circumference, and other factors" (interview on March 13, 2022).*

Muh Kencana, the secretary of Paok Lombok Village, also said the following: *"In relation to malnutrition, it is one of the local government's most important projects. People who test positive for DHF, for instance, are contacted directly by the puskesmas, health office. For babies who are underweight, the local government offers help" (interview on March 14, 2022).*

The health of migrant worker children who only live with their old grandparents and whose parents do not give them much care is at risk. Children are cared for by their grandparents and given medical attention when they are ill, but when a youngster is ill, he needs his parents. Children want their biological parents to take care of them, pamper them, and take them to the doctor. However, children will feel ignored by their parents and experience psychological problems if they don't take care of them while they are ill and don't even send money for medical bills. Some migrant workers neglect to contact their families when their children are ill because they are concerned that the parents will worry about their kids and cause them to worry, which would cause them to lose concentration on their work while they are away. Another migrant worker claimed that because he went to work to gain money and not for enjoyment, he didn't care about his child's health while he was sick. As a result, he disregarded any problems at home so that he could concentrate on earning money and not worry about other things. Former migrant laborer Zurriyatun Toyyibah from Paok Lekok hamlet said this:

*"If a child is ill here, I don't know, because how can we not return after we leave?" Children are frequently very ill, but I don't care since we struggle to make money there—not for extravagances like school fees for kids and parents—because we want to make my parents and kids happy" (interview on March 14, 2022).*

Children of migrant workers who become ill are typically transported right away to the polindes or health centers in Suralaga District for treatment. However, many locals who still trust in conventional medicine will seek treatment from a shaman. People continue to trust in traditional medical practices by traditional healers because visiting a doctor comes with a risk that you won't be able to recover and a high expense of care. Because it has been a tradition for a long time and cannot be shaken from the thoughts of the local community, this is what makes people prefer to go to a shaman for treatment rather than to a doctor. Masitah, a retired teacher in the Paok Lombok Lekok hamlet, said this:

*"Usually they are transported to the polindes or puskesmas. I occasionally consult a shaman as well because the belief is still strong in this area. Even after visiting a doctor, things don't always improve. Because of this, many people continue to employ traditional medicine" (interview on March 15, 2022).*

During the Covid-19 pandemic, people are encouraged to obey the health protocols made by the government, such as always wearing a mask when leaving the house or when traveling, avoiding crowds, PPKM, administering vaccines, and so on. However, many people in Suralaga Subdistrict violate the health protocol by not using masks when they are outside the home because they feel uncomfortable when wearing them, especially when they are at work they feel uncomfortable wearing masks. There are also many people who do not vaccinate because they are afraid of the vaccine that is given, this happens because of the many rumors circulating that after using the vaccine people will get sick and some even die.

There are also those who, despite what the government has told them and commanded them to do, refuse to receive the vaccine because they do not think that Covid-19 exists. Children that attend school will typically receive instructions from their teachers and at the locations where they obtain vaccinations to always follow the health standards, resulting in an average vaccination rate of schoolchildren. Parents must therefore preserve their children's health and ensure that they receive proper care if they become ill. However, because no one has informed the children of Indonesian migrant workers about the dangers of Covid-19, they would undoubtedly feel perplexed and concerned for their health. Due of their advanced age, the grandparents are unable to look after and care for their grandkids during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The functional structural theory was employed to examine the education and health of migrant worker children in Suralaga District during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Talcott Parson's structural functional theory, the family has its own responsibilities and functions, including a father making a living, a woman caring for the home, and a mother raising and educating children at home (Hasnah, 2021). It is acknowledged that a child who receives the best education possible in a family will grow up with good manners, a desire to serve others, and other positive traits like responsibility, diligence, intelligence, wisdom, and generosity. Unquestionably, every parent wants their children to mature and flourish so that they might one day succeed in life and honor their parents. Regarding health, every parent wants their child to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health. Even if a child is only mildly ill, any parent does not want them to be sick, and they will worry about their health. All of this, however, necessitates parents' awareness of the value of health and education for their kids.

Children's education has evolved; it used to be face-to-face learning but has moved to online learning, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic that is sweeping the globe right now. To protect everyone's safety, health protocol rules must be followed every time you leave the house. In order for kids to be healthy and avoid contracting the Covid-19 virus, parents' involvement in upholding, caring for, and guiding them is crucial. However, when parents leave their kids and go to work outside the city or abroad to make a living, the function of the family does not run optimally in the families of Indonesian migrant workers. As a result, parenting relies on family members like grandparents to fill the parental function. Therefore, grandparents play a crucial role in the growth of children.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Children of Indonesian migrant laborers in the Suralaga Subdistrict face a number of challenges in their life. especially when youngsters are left behind by their parents to work as migrant laborers and are left in the care of their elderly grandparents. This gives kids the impression that they are not being properly cared for, that they are not receiving as much attention, and that their group is loose, naughty, and that they don't respect adults. Children of migrant workers who are taken care of by their moms can receive love and care from their mothers even when their fathers are not around, and their lives will be safe and without shortages. The average migrant worker child enjoys a highly rich life, as evidenced by the youngsters who already own cellphones, motorcycles, nice clothes, respectable homes to reside in, high-quality educations, and other amenities. Their lifestyles are not always similar to those of children whose parents are migratory workers, unlike children whose parents are farmers, traders, and other types of workers.

In Suralaga District, migrant workers' kids receive generally excellent education. It is evident from the large number of children of migrant workers who have completed grades S1 and even S2. These kids succeed and achieve satisfying outcomes as a result of their schooling; they can go on to work as physicians, midwives, pharmacists, engineers, police officers, and other professions. If migrant workers' children are unlucky, their education will either be poor or neglected, which will lead to school abandonment. Early marriage is a consequence for migrant workers' children who drop out of school. The child of a migrant worker who has completed high school may decide against going to college because there isn't any money set aside for it, or they may decide to become migrant laborers as their parents did.

Children of migrant workers frequently have issues with or interruptions in their psychological well-being. This occurs because he does not have parents nearby to take care of and love him unconditionally like a child whose parents are at home. Children of migrant workers are affected by these issues in a variety of ways, including their tendency to be more reserved, close off to others, frequently repress their impulses, cry out of the blue, be mischievous and passionate, speak angrily, and show little regard for authority figures. None of the children of migrant workers are physically gravely ill; instead, they typically merely have fever, the flu, a cough, and runny nose. Because the local government is so concerned about children's health, there are no migrant worker children who have experienced malnutrition.

Children's education has transformed; what was formerly face-to-face instruction has become online instruction, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently sweeping the globe. And in order to protect everyone's safety, you must follow health protocol rules whenever you go outside. In order for kids to be healthy and avoid contracting the Covid-19 virus, parents' involvement in upholding, caring for, and guiding them is crucial. However, when parents leave their kids and go to work outside the city or abroad to make a living,

the function of the family does not run optimally in the families of Indonesian migrant workers. As a result, parenting relies on family members like grandparents to fill the parental function. Therefore, grandparents play a crucial role in the growth of children.

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