

## Social networks, gender differences and survival strategies : evidence from undocumented immigrants in Sabah, East Malaysia

Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20409151&lokasi=lokal>

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### Abstrak

Social networks provide social capital to the prospective migrants. They could also reduce migration's financial and social costs and risks by providing the new migrant with valuable information, job contacts, and other resources. This paper investigates the role of migrants networks, particularly those based on family, friendship, and community ties. Specifically, it explores how social networks emerge, develop, facilitate, and sustain the flow of migrants from Indonesia and the Philippines to Sabah. It presents the dynamic and variable portrayal of social networks by demonstrating how they gradually assume different forms and functions for women and for men that differently affect settlement outcomes, economic opportunities, and chances to become legal immigrants in Sabah. This study incorporates social networks and gender perspective. Data collection is based on the qualitative method. The findings suggest that social networks can both strengthen and broaden over time depending on the length of stay in Sabah, working experiences and the knowledge that has been accumulated.