

# **Ekonomi Politik Remitansi Pekerja Domestik Migran Indonesia di Hong Kong selama Masa Pandemi Covid-19 = Political Economy of Remittances of Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

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## **Abstrak**

Pandemi Covid-19 mengubah seluruh aspek kehidupan masyarakat di seluruh dunia. Selain krisis kesehatan, dunia harus menghadapi krisis ekonomi. Menariknya, pengiriman uang dari luar negeri (remitansi) selama pandemi dari Hong Kong ternyata cenderung stabil. Pada tahun 2020, Bank Indonesia menyatakan bahwa remitansi, yang mayoritas berasal dari pekerja migran, dari Hong Kong turun, namun tidak signifikan. Fenomena ini menarik mengingat tahun 2020 banyak negara mengalami resesi ekonomi, termasuk Hong Kong. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan ekonomi politik untuk melihat bagaimana beberapa faktor ekonomi dan politik akan memengaruhi stabilitas remitansi pekerja domestik migran Indonesia di Hong Kong. Penelitian ini berangkat dari teori Dilip Ratha (2003) tentang stabilitas remitansi di masa krisis ekonomi. Ratha berargumen bahwa ada dua faktor, yaitu (1) negara penerima pekerja migran biasanya memiliki stabilisator otomatis yang memungkinkan adanya perlindungan pendapatan bagi pekerja migran dan (2) kemudahan pada infrastruktur keuangan remitansi. Skripsi ini menemukan relevansi faktor infrastruktur keuangan bagi remitansi pada pengalaman di Hong Kong selama pandemi Covid-19, di mana adanya berbagai kebijakan dan fasilitas finansial yang memudahkan pengiriman remitansi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode pengumpulan data kualitatif untuk mengungkap kenyataan empiris yang dialami pekerja domestik asal Indonesia di Hong Kong. Hasilnya, penelitian ini menemukan beberapa faktor ekonomi lain yang tidak diajukan oleh Ratha. Stabilitas remitansi pada masa krisis akibat pandemi di Hong Kong juga turut dipengaruhi oleh perjuangan serikat buruh migran di Hong Kong dalam merespons krisis pandemi dan ekonomi. Selain itu, penelitian ini turut menemukan berbagai mekanisme dan praktik yang dilakukan para pekerja migran Indonesia di Hong Kong. Pekerja domestik migran harus melakukan berbagai cara untuk bisa mengirimkan uang dengan jumlah yang bertambah dari sebelum pandemi dan berusaha agar keluarga dan diri sendiri tetap bisa bertahan hidup. Faktor terakhir ini adalah politik bertahan hidup yang serupa dengan konsep ‘gerakan balik’ dari Karl Polanyi (2001). Faktor ini bersama dua faktor lainnya adalah penyebab terjadinya stabilitas remitansi ke Indonesia.

.....The Covid-19 pandemic has changed all aspects of people's lives around the world. In addition to the health crisis, the world must face an economic crisis. Interestingly, remittances from abroad during the pandemic from Hong Kong tended to be stable. In 2020, Bank Indonesia stated that remittances, the majority of which came from migrant workers, from Hong Kong fell, but not significantly. This phenomenon is interesting considering that in 2020 many countries will experience an economic recession, including Hong Kong. This study uses political economy approach to see how several economic and political factors will affect the stability of the remittances of Indonesian migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong. This study departs from the theory of Dilip Ratha (2003) regarding the stability of remittances in the period of economic crisis. Ratha argues that there are two factors, namely (1) migrant worker receiving countries usually have automatic stabilizers that allow for income protection for migrant workers and (2)

ease of remittance financial infrastructure. This thesis finds the relevance of financial infrastructure factors for remittances to the experience in Hong Kong during the Covid-19 pandemic, which is the existence of various policies and financial facilities that facilitate the delivery of remittances. This study uses qualitative data collection methods to reveal the empirical reality experienced by domestic workers from Indonesia in Hong Kong. As a result, this study found several other economic factors that were not proposed by Ratha. The stability of remittances during the crisis due to the pandemic in Hong Kong was also influenced by the struggle of the migrant workers' unions in Hong Kong to respond to the pandemic and economic crisis. In addition, this research also finds various mechanisms and practices used by Indonesian migrant workers in Hong Kong. Migrant domestic workers must do various ways to be able to send money in increased amounts from before the pandemic and try to keep their families and themselves alive. This last factor is the politics of survival which is similar to the concept of 'double movement' from Karl Polanyi (2001). This factor along with two other factors are the causes of the stability of remittances to Indonesia.