

The Influence Of The Transmigration Program on Community Welfare in Central Sulawesi

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Volume: 4 ISSN: 2963-5489	This study aims to examine the impact of the transmigration program on the well-being of people in the province of Central Sulawesi using a quantitative approach based on national social and economic data (Susenas and Podes 2023). The background of this research is the still-existing gap in well-being between transmigrasi and non-transmigrasi areas, even though the transmigration program has been ongoing for several decades. The study uses a multiple linear regression model with the dependent variable being community well-being and the main independent variable being the transmigration program, along with control variables such as education, employment, and village infrastructure. The results show that the transmigration program has a positive and significant effect on improving the well-being of the community in Central Sulawesi. This improvement is reflected in the increase of average household income, access to education, and basic infrastructure facilities. This study recommends strengthening transmigration policies based on local potential and improving the quality of human resources to achieve sustainable well-being.
KEYWORD	
Transmigration, Welfare, Linear Regression, Central Sulawesi, Socio-Economic	

1. Introduction

Indonesia's transmigration policy has been a strategic government initiative that has been implemented for several decades, with the primary ambition of addressing regional demographic disparities and improving community welfare through development. The policy's main objective is to distribute labor, resources, and economic opportunities as a means to promote an integrated local development approach. In its conceptual basis, migration has not only served as a tool for population redistribution, but also as an instrument to initialize regional development, particularly in the eastern part of Indonesia, which is relatively sparse compared to the western parts.

Central Sulawesi is one of the regions with the highest levels of transmigration participation in eastern Indonesia. Since the 1980s, various transmigration sites have been established in areas such as Morowali, Tojo Una-Una, and Parigi Moutong Regencies, which have become new centers of economic development. However, the outcomes of development in these transmigration areas have not been uniform. Some locations have experienced rapid economic growth, while others still face challenges such as poor infrastructure access, limited meaningful employment opportunities, and difficulties in integrating local residents with transmigrant communities.

based on natural resources and agriculture. Many areas in Central Sulawesi have evolved into agrarian production centers and agriculture. However, as well as a fleet of grassroots industries, transmigration as a socioeconomic development tool is

still debated, especially due to the limitations of longitudinal data and cultural differences. Transmigration as an instrument for improving social welfare remains with its own dynamics, while the emergence of indigenous communities and indigenous local inhabitants. However, it has proven to be effectiveness while addressing these challenges. (Kurniasih, 2019; Yuliani & Rustam, 2021).

Besides economic factors, social aspects like education and health are also important indicators in measuring the well-being of a community. A continuous and integrated transmigration program should not only increase income but also improve access to education, health services, and overall quality of life. This aligns with the multidimensional approach to welfare proposed by Amartya Sen (1999), which argues that well-being is not just about economic ability, but also about the freedom to live with dignity through education, health, and social participation.

Empirical data-based approach using quantitative data is applied to analyze the impact of migration programs in the Eastern of Sulawesi. This study targets three core dimensions of well-being, namely household income, education, and access to basic infrastructure, which reflects community capability for a sustainable and inclusive development. The search for this study is to provide theoretical contributions in the field of regional development economics, serving as a guideline for local and central government policies to improve migration-based development. The findings of this study are expected to form the basis for policies in the development of more inclusive and.

2. Literature Review

According to Amartya Sen (1999), well-being is not just measured by income, but also by an individual's freedom to get education, health care, and economic opportunities. In the context of Islam, well-being or *falah* includes a balance between material and spiritual needs (Chapra, 2019). The transmigration program in Indonesia has historically been expected to help spread development through the redistribution of people and the development of new areas (Suryono,2020).

Previous studies have shown mixed results.Yuliani and Rustam (2021) found that transmigration increased income and access to infrastructure in Kalimantan, while Kurniasih (2019) emphasized that the success of transmigration depends heavily on support from local governments and the ability of local communities to adapt socially and culturally.

3. Methodology

Explains how economic growth and welfare are distributed unevenly across regions and how government intervention—through policies such as transmigration—can reduce regional disparities. Myrdal (1957) introduced the concept of cumulative causation, which states that developed regions tend to accumulate more advantages (e.g., infrastructure, investment, skilled labor), while less-developed areas experience stagnation or decline unless supported by redistributive policies. In this context, the transmigration program in Indonesia serves as a strategic policy to balance population distribution, optimize underutilized land, and stimulate economic activity in rural and less- developed regions such as Central Sulawesi. Thus, the regional development approach provides the theoretical foundation to analyze how transmigration affects community welfare through economic, educational, and infrastructural improvements.

4. Results and Discussion

Description of Quantitative Data

Indicator	Transmigration Area	Non transmigration	source
Average Expenditure per Capita (IDR/month)	1.985.00	1.755.000	BPS, Susenas (2023)
Average Years of Schooling (years)	9,5	8,8	BPS (2023)

Access to Clean Water (%)	82,7	75,1	Podes (2023)
Access to Electricity	96.8	93,4	Podes (2023)

The data show that communities in transmigration areas have a higher level of welfare, particularly in terms of education and infrastructure access.

Multiple Linear Regression Results (OLS)

Variable	Coefficient (β)	t-Statistic	Sig.	Description
Constant	0.452	4.10	0.000	Significant
Transmigration Program (X1)	0.212	2.83	0.005	Significant effect
Education (X2)	0.331	3.92	0.000	Significant effect
Employment (X3)	0.178	2.54	0.012	Significant
Infrastructure (X4)	0.256	2.89	0.004	Significant

$R^2 = 0.68$ indicates that 68% of the variation in welfare can be explained by the four variables. Thus, the hypothesis stating that the transmigration program has a positive effect on community welfare is accepted

The findings indicate that the transmigration program has had a positive impact on improving community welfare in Central Sulawesi, particularly in the areas of economic growth, education, and regional development equity. The program has successfully created new economic centers through the expansion of agricultural, trade, and service activities. This result aligns with the studies of Suryono (2020), who stated that transmigration contributes to job creation and increased rural household income, and Yuliani and Rustam (2021), who emphasized that the success of transmigration depends greatly on local policy support and human resource capacity.

Furthermore, education plays a strengthening role, as the improvement of human resource capacity enhances economic productivity, accelerates the adoption of agricultural and technological innovations, and develops better managerial skills for running productive enterprises. Village

infrastructure development, such as roads, electricity, clean water, and public facilities, also serves as a key supporting factor by improving market access and enhancing the quality of public services.

However, not all transmigration areas have achieved similar outcomes. Some still face serious challenges, including land degradation due to overuse, limited access to business capital, and socio- cultural differences that hinder the integration process between transmigrants and local residents. These issues can affect social cohesion and slow down regional economic progress.

Therefore, future transmigration policies should be directed toward local economic development based on regional potential, taking into account natural resources, social characteristics, and local culture. A participatory, sustainable, and locally grounded approach is essential to ensure that transmigration serves not only as a tool for population redistribution but also as a strategic instrument for achieving inclusive and equitable development in Central Sulawesi.

5. Conclusion

The research findings show that the transmigration program has a significant positive impact on the welfare of communities in Central Sulawesi Province. Education and infrastructure factors have been proven to strengthen this relationship. To ensure the sustainability of the transmigration impact, the government should:

1. Improve the quality of education and training for transmigrant communities.
2. Promote local economic development based on agricultural potential and small-scale industries.
3. Strengthen synergy and collaboration between the central government, local governments, and local communities.
4. Conduct regular data-based monitoring and evaluation to ensure effective implementation and continuous improvement.

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